

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

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VOL. VI. No. 282.]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1855.

PRICE {Unstamped...FIVEPENCE.
Stamped.....SIXPENCE.

News of the Week.

GREAT news has come to us from both ends of the war, north and south, and if the officials make the most of the intelligence and of its first effect, it must be admitted that either one of the successes is a satisfaction, and that both together they cannot be without a considerable moral effect, upon the enemy, as well as upon our own force. Sweaborg has been mauled; and the Russians, attempting a grand attack upon the Tchernaya, have been driven back with serious loss—these two considerable blows being, as our readers already know, connected with a chain of similar successes that must have inflicted each day a heavier burden on the spirit of the foe.

In the Crimea the Russians had continued their efforts. It was only a day before we heard of the grand battle that we had a despatch from General SIMPSON announcing a sortie of the Russians in force: the attacking party, consisting of 2000 men, with strong reserves, made their approach with shouting and bugling, as if they expected to frighten the Allies, but they were repulsed as usual. Meanwhile, the fleet in the Sea of Azof had continued a progressive consumption of their food and forage, which must have made them feel the British attack in the stomach, the tenderest of all organs in the besieged. It may be true that reinforcements have arrived by way of Perekop—reinforcements for an ill-fated garrison being the most unwelcome of guests; and while we know well that the Russians can bring supplies by way of Perekop from the North, with great trouble and slowness, we have also had evidence that they depend for their supplies upon the Sea of Azof, where the English have made so effective a razzia.

We are now in a position to appreciate the great success of the Tchernaya. The reports are at present extremely slight; only such as the telegraph can transmit, and only in part official. The facts appear to be these:—The Russians approached in a force of 50,000 or 60,000 men, under our old friend LIPRANDI, to attack the position of the French and Sardinians on the Tchernaya. The fight lasted three hours, and then the enemy gave way, with a loss, it is rudely estimated, of some thousands of men, leaving some hundreds of prisoners in the hands of the Allies. A reverse of this kind must be far worse than the old repulses upon the same ground, or at Bala-

klava; for the Russians have evidently been exhausting their resources, and we know that their confidence must be reduced to a low ebb. The effort, desperate as it was, shows that they are conscious of weakness.

These events are the preface to a yet greater movement: by a despatch from General SIMPSON, received last evening, we learn that the bombardment of Sebastopol was to recommence yesterday, and no doubt on a grand scale, with approaches pushed far closer than when the impatience of a too impetuous French General spoiled the last storming arrangements.

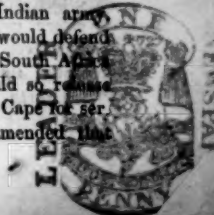
The "destruction" of Sweaborg remains to be explained. It may be truer than upon second thoughts we supposed, for second thoughts are not always so correct as the first. The position of the fortress is well known. As is so common on the Baltic coasts, a deep indentation is closed by a chain of shoals and small islands; towards the north-eastern corner of the outlet the islands are higher, the channel is deeper; and here, in fact, is the portal by which alone ships can gain admittance. As the islands stretch to the south-west they become smaller, and the water more shallow; and just within the line is the town of Helsingfors, which gives its name to the harbour. The fortress of Sweaborg may be said to be placed upon several of the islands forming the portal. It consisted of casemated batteries with outworks, arsenal, barracks, &c. The English fleet approached near enough to pour a destructive fire into the fortifications without receiving fire in return. A conflagration began very soon, and it is reported that the whole of the arsenal and barracks have been destroyed, while the port has suffered very severely. Such are the facts; whether these results really amount to the destruction of Sweaborg we have yet to learn. It is probable that the fortress has been rendered unavailing, and if no further blow has been struck this season, invaluable would have been these two recent successes to adorn the royal speech.

But it had to be delivered without them. The Sweaborg brilliancy came out twenty-four hours too late; the Tchernaya felicitations of Friday evening were not available on Tuesday at noon, when Parliament was dismissed for the recess by a royal speech in the third person, through the mouth of a commissioner, praising noble Peers and faithful Commons for what they had done. We reviewed the session last week,

and need not repeat our review now. The speech made its chief boast of those measures which we pointed at as fertile in future benefits—Limited Liability, the Metropolitan Government Bill, the Australian self-government Bills, &c., with a sturdy boast about the abolition of the Newspaper Stamp. The Speech, indeed, tells us that "the duty on newspapers" has been abolished, forgetting that the heaviest of all duties which we have to undergo is the duty on the very paper upon which we print, and which newspapers consume much more largely than ordinary books. The Speech also boasted of the successes in the war, and of the French alliance; it regretted the failure of the conferences at Vienna; it thanked the Commons for their contributions to the war exchequer, and to the beneficial legislation of the country. It was silent, of course, respecting the recent exhibitions of our statesmen; though if the Crown had any really supreme function, how just might have been the censure upon the unfaithful servant of the Sovereign who went to Vienna to perform a set task, and let the adverse party see that he would have yielded what he was told not to yield; while others, yet worse, after advising the Queen to enter upon a war, have made studied orations to encourage the enemy, dishearten their countrymen, and embarrass the Government in mustering the means for warfare.

The Commons and Lords have gone to the Moors, to the Exposition, to the Continent, *au diable*—that is, in the metaphorical sense—leaving undone about as many of the things they attempted to do or as they really executed; and the public is half inclined to think that the recess is as valuable as the session. We always think so in August; in February we incline to the opposite opinion.

Before the House of Commons, however, were summoned to the House of Lords in order to hear the speech, General EVANS occupied the vacant minutes by a survey of the resources still unused which might increase the men at our command. He particularly recommended that regiments on colonial service should be sent to the Crimea, and be replaced either with militiamen, or in some cases with detachments from the Indian army. Irregular Hindu cavalry, he says, would defend the border of the Cape colony in South Africa better than regular troops, and would so reduce seven battalions of veterans at the Cape for service in the Crimea. He also recommended that



the foreign contingent, including the Turkish, should be supplied with rifles. All sound advice; and Lord PALMERSTON promised that these subjects should receive attention during the recess. The *Morning Post* has announced that a force of French and English will be formed in Canada to replace the Anglo-American legion, which would have included any foreigners that might choose to wander in from the neighbouring Union. The subject of employing Indian soldiers has already attracted attention; but it is quite evident that large reinforcements can be obtained if necessary, and in the meanwhile, the sinews of war are not wanting.

The particulars of the Turkish Loan have been clearly explained this week. The remarkable fact this week is the singularly warm welcome given to the loan in the City. Before Messrs. ROTHSCHILD and Messrs. PALMER and GOLD-SMID had announced that they would open subscription lists—before the price for taking the stock had been fixed—blank “quotations,” as it were, had been quoted at “3 or 3½ premium;” that is, there were men willing to give an advance of 3 or 3½ upon whatever any jog-trot City man would fix as the price! The English and French guarantee have settled the matter as a question of credit; the resources of Turkey are known to be promising; but here was an expression of the money public on the general credit of the measure.

Friday was a Bears' holiday in the City. The long tedium of anticipation, with little done either in the Baltic or in the Black Sea, had just been broken by the announcement of “the destruction of Sweaborg”—a phrase which proved to be somewhat overcharged—and then yesterday out came the *Morning Post* with the tremendous announcement—“We have reason to believe that stirring, and hitherto unexpected, intelligence may be looked for from the Crimea in the course of the next few days.” This might have been open to any construction, but the *Morning Herald* almost at the same time affirmed that some “depressing” information had been received from the Crimea by Government, and purposely withheld. Here were the most favourable conditions for the Bear party: a long listlessness, an over-heightened success, a slight reaction, and a solemn and apparently official announcement that something was coming—the *Post* having manifestly official sources—and finally, the avowal of the *Herald* that something was adverse. The Bears had the day, and the Funds declined. The probability was that the “stirring intelligence” related to an event which had not yet taken place, the *Morning Post* having been the journal that announced the last assault upon Sebastopol before it took place, punctually naming the day; and so it proved again. The interpretation of the *Herald*, therefore, deserved little attention; but it was not the less valuable for the Bears, and no doubt a considerable amount of money has changed hands while the mystified public opened its mouth for the promised wonderment.

These operations had been, for a time, aided by reports of damage to the crops through the storms, but the loss has been very partial, and the sun has restored both the grain and the market.

Railways have reason to be more permanently plaintive than corn. If the grain is laid, so are dividends, but more fearfully, and we apprehend for a longer period. No sun will raise them. The decline is usually attributed to the war and the stagnation of trade; it is general, but the greatest proportion of fall is in lines like the North-Western and the Great Western. The North-Western used to have a steady dividend of ten per cent., and the Great Western of eight; recently, this level has not been maintained. The North-Western was content with something short of ten; the Great Western with

four; but at the meetings just held the dividends for the half year have been respectively at the rate of 4½ and 2 per cent. per annum! In other words, those persons whose property consisted in railway shares will have in the Great Western railway a quarter of the income which they had not long since, and half the income which they had last year. But this is not a subject to be dismissed in a passing paragraph.

Persons have figured on the scene conspicuously, and in many quarters. Mr. COWPER, the new President of the Board of Health, Mr. ROBERT LOWE, Vice-President of the Board of Trade—both now “Right Honourable”—have been re-elected. Being sound on the war, they passed their re-election unanimously. Mr. BOYCOTT, Mr. LOWE's threatened opponent, found it impossible to get a majority at Kidderminster against a War Minister. Mr. LINDSAY has been down to tell his electors at Tynemouth that he did not misrepresent when he brought forward the Admiralty grievances. But the public would take it much more kindly at his hands if he could explain to them, by an anatomy of the department, how it is that the Admiralty produces grievances. Elsewhere we see Mr. HUBBARD, lately a Governor of the Bank of England, with other City magnates, taking a conspicuous position at a public meeting in the Guildhall to promote the Early Closing movement. In the United States we have President PIERCE displacing the energetic anti-slavery Governor REEDER, and putting in the conformist DAWSON, on the Nebraska Bill policy. In India we see a son of DWARKANATH TAGORE approaching the judicial Bench, not without some controversy as to his personal qualifications; and we descry Major PHAYRE setting out on a mission to Ava, accompanied by a scientific suite, strongly manned, to make a survey of the land traversed. At home again, certain admirers of Mr. ROEBUCK are endeavouring to redress the injustice of fortune by securing him an independence, as the merited “testimonial” for public services which have not been repaid in the usual way, by official advancement, which has slid off to inferior men. A reminiscent public of a very limited kind are getting up a monument to amiable Miss MIRROR; and “JANE FRANKLIN,” à propos to the gratuity bestowed upon the actual traversers of the “North-Western passage,” is claiming recognition for her husband and his companions as the first actual discoverers of the junction of the seas.

But conspicuous above all is Queen VICTORIA, guest of “our ally,” the EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH. Queen VICTORIA does all things regularly, rapidly, and decisively. Her MAJESTY arrives in her yacht, an “ocean Queen;” she traverses Paris to-day; to-morrow “rests,” and then attends a concert of music at the Conservatoire—“sacred music” of course. Then there is a round of sight-seeing, receptions, dinners in state, or “en famille,” theatres, operas, in formidable whirl; with an hour or two of “rest” daily, like FALSTAFF's bread, “in all this sack.” There is little of it, but how intense that resting! Not a person is there in all the world so conspicuous as the successor of ELIZABETH just at these presents. Were it possible, now, that she could dissociate herself from the routine by which she is surrounded, and from the adventurer-scheming by which she is confronted, elevate herself to the highest point of view, and survey the political world, all its heaving movements and suppressed hopes, from the highest summits of Paris, see what is to be seen, and recognise it with heart and head, and declare in her clear voice the truth as it could be told, what voices might not answer, what hands would not rise to do her bidding, what deeds might not be done, what immortal greatness not be hers!

BOILER EXPLOSION.—Owing, as it is supposed, to an insufficiency of water, a boiler exploded on Saturday evening at Sheffield, and was carried across the road into the river, knocking down two walls in its progress. Two men were killed, and three others seriously injured.

THE REV. DR. FOX, Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, expired on Saturday last at the provost's lodging, in the eighty-first year of his age.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

As the session approaches its termination, it is found necessary to transact a certain amount of business on Saturdays; and on Saturday morning last, both Lords and Commons met for a few hours. In the Lords, the Commons' amendments to the CHAMBERLAIN'S BILL, the UNION OF CONTIGUOUS BENEFICES BILL, the CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL, and some other measures, were considered and agreed to, with the exception of one in the Union of Contiguous Benefices Bill, which was rejected after a brief conversation.

THE PUBLIC HOUSES (IRELAND) BILL, the PUBLIC HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL, and the DISEASE PREVENTION BILL, were respectively read a third time, and passed.

LIMITED LIABILITY BILL.

This bill, after a protest from Lord LITTLTON (on the ground of undue haste), and some remarks in defence of its principles from the Marquis of LANSDOWNE, was read a third time, and passed. A clause, however, was added, empowering the Board of Trade to appoint auditors, under certain regulations, for the purpose of inspecting the accounts of the companies who might avail themselves of the privileges created by the measure. The Lords' amendments on the bill having been subsequently read in the Commons, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE, Mr. MALINS, Mr. WILKINSON, and Mr. PELLATT, strenuously opposed them; while Lord PALMERSTON and the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, though admitting that the bill had been depreciated, thought it would be better to accept the measure as it stood than risk it altogether. The amendments were ultimately adopted.

STATE OF THE CRIMEAN ARMY.

In the House of Commons, in reply to Lord HOTHAM, Lord PALMERSTON promised to produce the evidence taken by Sir J. McNeill and Colonel Tulloch in their recent inquiries into the state of the Crimean army, with the exception of certain passages of a confidential character.

EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

Mr. WALPOLE gave notice for next session, of his intention to propose some change in the system of national education in Ireland, so as to enable certain classes who now obtained no share of the grants of public money to participate in the same. The Lords' amendments to several bills were agreed to.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS AS A HOUSE OF APPEAL.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, Lord St. LEONARD's, in moving for a return relative to appeals heard by their Lordships during the session, called attention to some remarks by the Solicitor-General in the House of Commons on the previous Friday, to the effect that the House of Lords is very objectionable as a legal tribunal, owing to the members considering themselves at liberty to depart, if they think fit, in the middle of an argument. Lord St. Leonard's emphatically denied this.—Lord CAMPBELL and the Lord CHANCELLOR concurred in the denial; and the motion was withdrawn.

PRESENCE OF SOLDIERS DURING ASSIZES.

Lord CAMPBELL drew attention to the absurdity and injustice of locking soldiers in their barracks during the holding of assizes; and the Lord CHANCELLOR said that whenever he found any soldiers in court, he had always observed them to be among the quietest and most orderly listeners.

THE CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL, the EXCHEQUER-BILLS (7,000,000L.) BILL, and the MILITIA PAY BILL, were respectively read a third time, and passed.

INTOLERANCE AT OXFORD.

Lord MONTEAGLE presented a petition from Sir Culling Eardley, stating that some years ago his name was erased from the College Books, on account of some scruples having prevented his signing the Thirty-nine Articles; that, since the Oxford University Act of last year, he had applied to have his name replaced, and that he was told this could only be done upon his signing a declaration that he was extra Ecclesiam Anglicanum, which he refused to do, because he does not so regard himself.—The Lord CHANCELLOR, Lord HARRINGTON, and Lord CAMPBELL, all disapproved of the conduct of the University; Lord Campbell observing that it is contrary to the letter, to the spirit, and to the policy of the Act of Parliament.

CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

Tuesday being the last day of the session, Sir DAVID LACY EVANS determined to close the legislative proceedings with an attempt to elicit from the Government a still more distinct declaration than had yet been made of their determination to prosecute the war with vigour during the recess. Comparing the exertions made since the present hostilities with those which distinguished the last great war (when we had 80,000 British, and 40,000 Portuguese, troops) he came to the conclusion that there had been a falling

off in energy. Our force in the East is inadequate; and it might be enlarged by drafting off ten thousand from the forty thousand European troops we maintain in India. The English battalions at the Cape, and also, might be replaced by native Indian troops, and soldiers from the other colonies; a splendid corps might be created from the Irish police; and a Polish Legion, formed of Russian Poles, would form the nucleus of a most important force.—Lord PALMERSTON reiterated his determination to push the war with vigour, and remarked that, if Sir De Laey had taken the first year instead of the latter period of the Peninsular war, he would have found that our efforts now are greater than they were then, or indeed at any other time.

The discussion dropped, and the members were shortly afterwards summoned to the House of Lords, to hear the Queen's message with respect to

THE PROROGATION.

The Royal Assent having been given by commission to several bills,

The LORD CHANCELLOR proceeded to read her Majesty's speech as follows:—

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"We are commanded by her Majesty to release you from further attendance in parliament, and at the same time to express the warm acknowledgments of her Majesty for the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to the discharge of your public duties during a long and laborious session.

"Her Majesty has seen with great satisfaction, that while you have occupied yourselves in providing means for the vigorous prosecution of the war, you have given your attention to many measures of great public utility. Her Majesty is convinced that you will share her satisfaction at finding that the progress of events has tended to cement more firmly that union which has so happily been established between her Government and that of her ally the Emperor of the French; and her Majesty trusts that an alliance founded on a sense of the general interests of Europe, and consolidated by good faith, will long survive the events which have given rise to it, and will contribute to the permanent well-being and prosperity of the two great nations whom it has linked in the bonds of honourable friendship.

"The accession of the King of Sardinia to the treaty between her Majesty, the Emperor of the French, and the Sultan has given additional importance and strength to that alliance, and the efficient force which his Sardinian Majesty has sent to the seat of war to co-operate with the Allied armies, will not fail to maintain the high reputation by which the army of Sardinia has ever been distinguished.

"Her Majesty has commanded us to thank you for having enabled her to avail herself, as far as has been found to be required, of those patriotic offers of extended service which she has received from the militia of the United Kingdom, and for the means of reinforcing her brave army in the Crimea by an enlistment of volunteers from abroad.

"Her Majesty acknowledges with satisfaction the measure which you have adopted for giving effect to the convention by which, in conjunction with her ally the Emperor of the French, she has made arrangements for assisting the Sultan to provide the means which are necessary to enable him to maintain in efficiency the Turkish army, which has so gallantly withstood the assaults of its enemies.

"Her Majesty, in giving her assent to the bill which you presented to her for the local management of the metropolis, trusts that the arrangements provided by that measure will lead to many improvements conducive to the convenience and health of this great city. The abolition of the duty on newspapers will tend to diffuse useful information among the poorer classes of her Majesty's subjects. The principle of limited liability which you have judiciously applied to joint-stock associations will afford additional facilities for the employment of capital, and the improvements which you have made in the laws which regulate friendly societies will encourage habits of industry and thrift among the labouring classes of the community.

"Her Majesty trusts that the measures to which she has given her assent for improving the constitutions of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania, and for bestowing on the important and flourishing colonies of Australia extended powers of self-government, will assist the development of their great natural resources, and will promote the contentment and happiness of their inhabitants.

"Her Majesty commands us to say that she has been deeply gratified by the zeal for the success of her Majesty's arms, and by the sympathy for her soldiers and sailors, manifested throughout her Indian and colonial empire; and her Majesty acknowledges with great satisfaction the generous contributions which her subjects in India, and the Legislatures and inhabitants of the colonies, have sent for the relief of the sufferers by the casualties of war.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"Her Majesty commands us to convey to you her cordial thanks for the readiness and zeal with which you

have provided the necessary supplies for carrying on the war in which her Majesty is engaged;

"Her Majesty laments the burdens and sacrifices which it has become necessary to impose upon her faithful people, but she acknowledges the wisdom with which you have alleviated the weight of those burdens by the mixed arrangements which you have made for providing those supplies.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"Her Majesty has commanded us to say, that she has seen with sincere regret that the endeavours which, in conjunction with her ally the Emperor of the French, she made at the recent conferences at Vienna to bring the war to a conclusion on conditions consistent with the honour of the Allies and with the future security of Europe, have proved ineffectual. But, those endeavours having failed, no other course is left to her Majesty but to prosecute the war with all possible vigour; and her Majesty, relying upon the support of her Parliament, upon the manly spirit and patriotism of her people, upon the never failing courage of her army and her navy, whose patience under suffering and whose power of endurance her Majesty has witnessed with admiration, upon the steadfast fidelity of her allies, and above all upon the justice of her cause, humbly puts her trust in the Almighty Disposer of Events for such an issue of the great contest in which she is engaged as may secure to Europe the blessings of a firm and lasting peace.

"On your return to your several counties you will have duties to perform little less important than those which belong to your attendance in Parliament. Her Majesty trusts that your powerful influence will be exerted for the welfare and happiness of her people, the promotion of which is the object of her Majesty's constant care, and the anxious desire of her heart."

The Commission for proroguing Parliament was then read, and the LORD CHANCELLOR added—

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"By virtue of her Majesty's Commission, under the great seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in her Majesty's name, and in obedience to her commands, prorogue this Parliament to Tuesday, the 23rd day of October next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the 23rd day of October next."

THE WAR.

SWEABORG has been bombarded with triumphant success; and the long pause in the operations of the war has been terminated by the first successful blow of any magnitude and completeness. On the morning of the 9th inst., the mortar and gunboats of the Allied squadron opened fire on the place, and did not cease until the morning of August 11th. "Heavy explosions and very destructive fires," says the despatch of Admiral Dundas, "were produced in a very few hours. Nearly all the principal buildings on Vargoe, and many more on Swartoe, including those of the dockyard and arsenal, are burnt. Few casualties have occurred, and no lives lost, in the Allied fleet." This account is confirmed by that of Admiral Penard, who writes:—

"The bombardment of Sweaborg by the Allied Squadrons has been attended with complete success. An immense conflagration, which lasted for forty-five hours, has destroyed nearly all the storehouses and magazines of the arsenal, which is a complete ruin. Various powder magazines and stores of projectiles blew up. The enemy has received a terrible blow, and suffers an enormous loss. Our loss is insignificant in men, and nothing whatever in material. The crews are in a state of enthusiasm."

Sweaborg, it is perhaps needless to inform our readers, is one of the first of those granite and iron warders which guard the chief marine avenue into the heart of Russia—the Gulf of Finland. It is one of the outposts, or exterior gates, of the capital; and is accounted only second to Cronstadt in strength. Situated on an island, with Helsingfors on the mainland close at its back, it has been relied on by the Czar as a means of keeping his enemies at a safe distance from the vulnerable part of his empire; and many have been the prophecies, even from the lips of Englishmen, as to the hopelessness of doing anything against it. Yet, with the first vigorous effort, it has been, if not utterly ruined, yet miserably shattered. The Russians have received a great blow; and the Allies now look with greater confidence towards Sebastopol.

Before that gigantic fortress, reddened by so much English and French blood, the might of the confederated armies is still gathering up for some awful and concentrated blow. The French engineers are now closeted the east fort and the Karabelnain fortifications. The English lines are also advanced close up to the hostile walls; and the relative position of the two enemies is equivalent to that of the Cornish "hug" in wrestling. The death-grapple grows tighter; the Allies have a manifest superiority; and even the Austrian organs are beginning to prophesy favour-

ably as to the result of the next assault. On this head, the Vienna *Military Gazette* remarks:—

"It would of course be possible to hold the second line, even when the Allies had taken the Malakhoff Tower; but General Osten-Sacken well knows the danger which at this moment threatens the Marine suburb and the Admiralty buildings, and has given orders preparatory to the eventual evacuation of this part of the town, and a retreat to Fort Nicholas. General Chruleff directs the defence of the Karabelnain, and has his head-quarters in Fort Paul. It is inferred from his latest measures that, while prepared for the worst, he is resolved to defend his ground to the utmost."

The *Gazette* is of opinion that the position of the garrison on the left line of defence, from Bastion 1 to Bastion 5 (from the west of Careening Bay to the Flagstaff, inclusive) will not long be tenable.

We read in the *Daily News*:—

"The *Independence* of Brussels and some of the Berlin papers state, as news from St. Petersburg, that orders have been given for the construction of a floating bridge, to extend from Fort Michael, on the south, to Fort Nicholas, on the north side of the roadstead of Sebastopol, so as to assure the retreat of the garrison in case of need. There is some error of detail in this announcement, Fort Nicholas being on the south side of the roads; but the character and object of the new construction is important."

A private letter from Vienna states that the bombardment of Bastions 3 to 5 continues with slight interruption from day to night. The Russians, who return it continually, are nevertheless unable to destroy the works of the 6th parallel, and it is even said, adds the writer, that it has become completely impossible for them to ascertain its position. Speaking of the period from July the 22nd to the 26th, General Gortschakoff writes that the enemy has kept up a fire "alternately vertical and sweeping," and that immense quantities of rockets and various kinds of projectiles have been hurled into the city. On the 8th and 9th of August, he says that "the enemy's cannonade is feeble." The *Press* d'Orient states that fifty-six batteries have been prepared for the general attack on the left at a distance of from fifty to one hundred and twenty metres from the enemy. The *Times* correspondent believes that another attack will very shortly be made on the Malakhoff; and some persons have spoken of the 15th of August—the anniversary of the birth of Napoleon the First—as the day. But had that day been so signalled, we should have learnt the fact before now. So, at present, all is expectation in the direction of the Crimea; but expectation tinged with hope, and, alas! with sorrow too, at the thought of the carnage that is coming.

The Russians, however, are making every effort to defend themselves to the last; and a great deal of wondering has been excited among the Allies by a very mysterious work of counter approach executed by the besieged, and which is described as taking the form of a deep, covered trench cut in the glacis, at right angles to the great ditch around the Malakhoff works, and extended in a direction towards the nearest point of the French approach. This trench was excavated on the night of the 28th of July.

From Anapa there is nothing of importance. The Russian garrison which had abandoned that city, and which at a later period had to retrace its steps, has passed the Kuban. The Circassians are encamped about Anapa; but they are not engaged in any movements of consequence.

Kars still holds out; and letters from Erzerum announce that Mehemet Pacha, Governor-General of Erzerum, had succeeded in collecting 4800 men, infantry and cavalry, of the militia, that he had advanced at the head of these troops in the direction of Kars, and effected his junction with Vely Pacha, General of Division, who was occupying a strong position. It is said that the Russians do not mean to attack Kars, as they entertain hopes of starving out the garrison; but another account states that the city is to be besieged in regular form. In a communication from the seat of war in Asia, we find the relative positions of the Russians and Turks thus described:—

"A Russian division is fortifying itself at Solanki-Dagh, in the defile Unkiar Dush. During the past week, a force of 2000 regular Turkish horsemen advanced from Kopri Kisi towards this mountain; arriving very late, they did not see the enemy, and arranged for passing the night upon the heights, but at daybreak they were surprised to find the Cossacks before them. The Turks, however, did not lose courage; they bravely defended themselves, and succeeded in occupying from this mountain, leaving but five or six dead, and some wounded and prisoners. The Russians also have maintained themselves in the district of Bayazid, in a force of nearly 10,000 men, distributed at Utch-Kilass, Deudla, and Topra-Kaleh. The Turkish army at Kopri Kisi increases every day; the irregulars coming in from all parts."

Schamyl still remains in the mountains. There is no probability of an expedition into the interior of the Crimea.

A RAIN-STORM IN THE CRIMEA.

Soon after five o'clock this morning (July 31) a most violent storm of wind and rain commenced, and continues as I write. It will cause, I fear, much discomfort, if not actual damage, in the camp, over which it rages with a combined fury and duration which I do not remember to have seen surpassed. The considerable portion of the camp of which I command a view from my hut is converted into a lake, the rain descending faster than it can sink into the earth. Over the surface of this lake the rain is drifted in clouds by the driving wind, forming a sort of watery curtain, through which the soaked tents look dreary and dismal enough. Such as it is, however, their imperfect shelter has been sought, and one sees but here and there a drenched figure struggling through the blast. In the pens, the mules and horses mournfully hang their heads, enduring with melancholy philosophy the inevitable and unwelcome *douche*, while in sundry nooks and corners, to the leeward of tents and under the eaves of huts, the camp fowls have taken refuge, with drooping plumes, and that look of profound discomfort peculiar to poultry under difficulties. Down the numerous slopes of the camp the water has made itself channels, which will not, however, I fear, prevent its finding its way into many of the semi-subterranean huts, to the great disturbance of their domestic economy. Even the furious war of the elements does not wholly suspend the strife of man, and from time to time, above the roar of the wind and the plash of the rain, the boom of a gun reaches us. As I write, however, the tempest passes over, the clouds fly seaward, the rain ceases, and already the camp resumes its stir.

The immediate effect of these plashing showers is not particularly agreeable, although I believe it to be highly beneficial. They convert the clayey soil of the camp and its vicinity into a sticky mud, which clings tenaciously to the feet of man and beast, and renders locomotion slow and difficult. The clay hardens rapidly and requires strong picking to extract it from the horse's hoof. Considering the quality of the soil it seems unaccountable that our authorities do so little in the way of road-making. One would imagine that they anticipate continual summer, or departure before winter arrives. While the French have made excellent roads, in our camp one sees mere tracks. As for the much-vaunted Balaklava railway it will be useless within a short time after the bad season sets in. It is a very convenient summer construction, but the ground on which it rests will be converted into mud by the winter's wet.—*Times Correspondent.*

RUSSIAN LOSSES AND REINFORCEMENTS.

I heard a few days ago from a French officer of artillery, that Pelissier, being asked when offensive siege operations would be again resumed, said, "Well, I don't know; the Russians are losing every day three or four hundred men by sickness. If we wait a week, they will have lost a brigade, if we wait a month, they will have lost a *corps d'armée*." But, if the Russians lose many men by sickness, they seem to be careful to replace them. Numbers of stories are afloat about the formidable forces which have come and are still coming down this way, and apprehensions of an attack on the Tchernaya line are daily gaining more ground. In the meantime, not even the most powerful telescopes are able to discover anything of the approach of this formidable force.—*Times occasional Correspondent.*

DESPATCH FROM GENERAL SIMPSON.

Before Sebastopol, July 31.

My Lord,—I beg to enclose the list of casualties to the 29th inst., which, I regret to say, are very heavy. The proximity of our works to those of the enemy, together with the lightness of the nights and rocky nature of the ground, making it impossible to obtain rapid cover, materially contributes to such a result; notwithstanding which disadvantages our engineers continue steadily, though slowly, to advance in the direction of the Great Redan.

An agreeable change has taken place the last few days in the temperature of the weather; heavy showers of rain have occasionally fallen.

Several reconnaissances have been made from the valley of Baidar towards Ozenbash, Aitodar, and through the Phoros Pass towards Aloupka, the enemy nowhere appearing in any force; but the narrowness of the mountain roads, with the exception of the Woronzoff, makes it unnecessary for them to alter their concentrated position on the heights of Mackenzie and plateau of the Belbek.

The health of the troops continues very satisfactory. I have, &c.,

JAMES SIMPSON,
Lieutenant-General Commanding.

Lord Panmure, &c.

Casualties.—1 sergeant, 11 rank and file killed; 5 officers, 2 sergeants, 106 rank and file wounded. Naval Brigade: 12 wounded, 2 contused.

WAR MISCELLANEA.

A RUSSIAN VESSEL UNDER THE AUSTRIAN FLAG.—The Nina arrived at Ipswich on the 14th of May last from the Black Sea, under Austrian colours, and on the 4th of June, was detained by the officers of Customs on suspicion of being Russian property. Her cargo had been previously discharged. In the course of last week,

a claim for restitution was made in the Admiralty Court by Martino Gherdakovick, of Castrena in Austria, who deposed that he was the sole owner; but it was clear from the correspondence brought in that there are some Russians who still have an interest in her. Dr. Lushington, therefore, condemned the vessel. He observed:—"It was the first Austrian vessel which had come before the court. He would always be ready to give that flag as indulgent a consideration as the law of nations would allow; but, at the same time, he trusted that the Austrian Government would take care not to permit their flag to be prostituted for the purpose of protecting the property of an enemy from the just rights of the belligerent."

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.—We read in a letter from Vienna, dated the 7th inst.:—"It is believed here that Count Buol received yesterday a declaration on the part of England and France that they do not wish, by new negotiations for peace, to interfere with or forestal the more decisive events of the war." The same writer says:—"The arrival of General Letang at Vienna is considered as being connected with arrangements relative to the opening of lines of march for the Allied armies in the Principalities. It is rumoured here that one of the exiled French generals is expected at Frohsdorf."

RECRUITING FOR THE FOREIGN LEGION IN SWITZERLAND.—Colonel Dixon is at Berne, endeavouring to recruit for the Foreign Legion; but no journal dare publish the conditions of enlistment, in consequence of the prohibition of enrolment.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE has arrived at Balaklava, and has been up to the front.

ODESSA.—A telegraphic despatch, dated July 28th, says:—"The garrison of Odessa, now the head-quarters of General Liders, was yesterday reviewed. It consists of 16,000 infantry, two regiments of light cavalry, and a few batteries of artillery."

THE WHITE SEA.—The French and English squadrons having appeared before Arehangel, various foreign vessels have by their orders withdrawn.

EFFECT OF THE BLOCKADE.—The trade of St. Petersburg is in a state of the utmost distress owing to the blockade. Necessaries are at a most exorbitant price; labour is suspended in the manufactories; and the nobility are obliged to give *fêtes* and costly theatrical exhibitions, in order to keep up some slight degree of activity amongst the commercial classes. These accounts, however, are denied by some of the continental papers.

THE LATE CAPTAIN LYONS.—The Queen has sent an autograph letter to Sir Edmund Lyons, to express her sympathy with him on the loss of his son.

THE SEA OF AZOF.—Sir Edmund Lyons transmits to the Admiralty reports by Commanders Osborn and Crauford, giving detailed accounts of the destruction of Russian Government property at Berutch Spit, Berdiansk, White House Spit, Glofra (near Gheisk), and the Crooked Spit in the Gulf of Azof. There are no particulars of unusual interest. Captain Osborn adds that "the total amount of provisions, corn, fisheries, forage, and boats destroyed has been something enormous."

AUSTRIA'S "IF."—The Vienna Gazette, an exclusively official publication, asserts, in contradiction to a doubt expressed by Sir George Grey, in his speech on Mr. Laing's motion, that if England had accepted the Austrian proposals, Austria would instantly have signed a military convention with the Western Powers. The Gazette has "every reason to believe" that this fact had been telegraphed to their respective Governments by the representatives of France and England.

THE TURKS are fortifying the Danube. The mouths of the Sulina are intercepted by brigands, and commerce calls for protection. Difficulties have arisen in the Principalities between the Turks and the Austrians. The latter pretend that they ought to have notice given them of any movement among the Turkish troops.

SWEABORG.—Advices from Königsberg state that when the attack on Sweaborg began, the Grand Duke Constantine, who was immediately informed by telegraph of the event, demanded leave to go out and attack the reduced fleet before Cronstadt; but the Emperor refused.

LOSS OF AN ENGLISH SCREW GUNBOAT.—Lieutenant-General Khoumoutoff writes to his Government that, on the evening of July 23rd, an English gunboat ran aground on a point of land in the Sea of Azof. A fusillade was immediately opened against the vessel, "in order to prevent its crew from pushing it off." This was answered by a cannonade against the Cossacks, and a steamer came to the assistance of the boat; but in vain. The crew then escaped; and the Cossacks burnt the gunboat to the water's edge, and took away the Union Jack and two 24-pounder brass cannons. Such is the Russian account.

AN ARRIVAL AND A DEPARTURE.—General Simpson, writing on August 4th, gives an account of the sortie of the Russians on the night of the 2nd instant, of which the details are already known. The general also mentions the arrival from captivity of Captain Montagu, of the Royal Engineers (who speaks with gratitude of the kindness with which he has been treated, and of the departure from the Crimea of Sir Richard England, owing to ill health).

SIR JAMES BROOKE.

A BLUE-BOOK of unusually large dimensions, containing the reports of the two Commissioners appointed to inquire into certain charges against the Rajah Brooke, has been published. The question of the incompatibility of Sir James's position as Rajah of Sarawak with his duty as an English subject, is set at rest by his consenting to abandon, if need be, his exercise of independent sovereignty. With respect to the doubt as to whether Sir James is entitled to hold territory, and trade in its produce, at the same time that he fills the office of British Consul, part of his duties as which consists in fostering the trade of other British subjects, Mr. Devereux, one of the Commissioners, does not consider the two positions at all incompatible; while Mr. Prinsep (for the decisions of the two Commissioners, owing to differences of opinion, are given separately) calls attention to the facts that Sir James has admitted the anomalous character of his position, and has abstained from exercising the functions of consul. In connexion with the celebrated piracy question, Sir James would seem to be justified by a large mass of evidence, showing that the Dyaks had exercised great oppression and cruelties, and that, since their chastisement in 1849, the coast has been comparatively secure, and commerce greatly extended. Mr. Prinsep, however, thinks that Sir James's relations towards the native tribes are not what they should be, and that it is "neither necessary nor prudent that he should be intrusted with any discretion to determine which of these tribes are piratical," or be armed with any power to call for naval aid against them.

"Some difference," says the summary in the *Times*, "appears to exist between the two Commissioners with respect to the attacks on the piratical tribes by Captains Keppel and Farquhar. Mr. Prinsep thinks that they were prompted rather by a consideration of the injuries sustained by the settlers at Sarawak than by any injuries or complaints of such sustained by English subjects, and he deplores the great sacrifice of life entailed by Captain Farquhar's operations in concert with 'savage allies.' The charge of 'wrongful and careless attack and massacre,' however, has wholly failed of proof, and been negatived by evidence to the contrary. Mr. Devereux so far differs from his colleague as to disbelieve that there was excessive loss of life, or that atrocities, in the ordinary sense of the term, were committed in 1849 in the expedition against the Serbes and Sakarran Dyaks."

ACCIDENT AT CREMORNE GARDENS.

SEBASTOPOL seems fated to be the cause of suffering and wounds to our brave Guards, not merely in the actual conflict raging in the far off Chersonese, but in the sham citadel and assault created for the amusement of a crowd at home. For some time past, Mr. Simpson, the manager of Cremorne Gardens, has exhibited a model of Sebastopol, which has every night been beleaguered by imaginary French and English soldiers, amidst dazzling displays of red flame and fireworks. On Monday night, Mr. Simpson represented the capture of the Mameluk and Rifle-pits; and, as this was to be done for the benefit of the Wellington College, the patronage of the Queen and Prince Albert, and of the highest military authorities, was accorded, and a body of five hundred men, belonging chiefly to the Grenadier Guards, was permitted to attend. A portion of the operations had to be conducted upon wooden stages; and, towards the close of the exhibition, the gallery on which the Guards stood gave way, and about sixty men, with bayonets fixed, fell from a height of twenty feet. The rest of the men remained with extraordinary coolness on the other part of the platform, without raising any cry of alarm. Twenty men were more or less hurt, some having received bayonet wounds, and the limbs of five being fractured. Both the legs of one man were broken, while another soldier sustained serious internal injuries. The wounded were immediately stretched out in the circus; and the mimic fight received a sad element of truth. Beneath the tawdry imitation citadel, as beneath the stern reality, English soldiers lay with fractured limbs and bayonet wounds.

Mr. Simpson has written to the *Times* to say that the accident was caused by the soldiers, in the excitement of the mock struggle, rushing on to a platform where it was not intended they should go.

We believe that every ordinarily thinking mind and sensitive heart will agree with the strictures of the *Times* upon the wretched taste exhibited in such spectacles as that which on Monday night had so lamentable a catastrophe. While our countrymen are yet sacrificing their lives in the bloody verities of that struggle which will form one of the most ghastly episodes of this century, it has not a little of the appearance of heartless levity (though it may be nothing worse than thoughtlessness) when the comfortable, home staying public draw an evening's amusement from a paltry imitation of events, the contemplation of which should never be approached except in a spirit of the deepest reverence, sorrow, and compassion. This tendency to draw a flippant pleasure from "affairs of death"—to pic-nic, as it were, in the midst of a Golgotha—to dandle and pet a popular hero, and to sport a flashy semblance of patriotism in the face of solemn memories—is not a creditable feature of our English character; and it was only the charitable object of last Monday's celebration that redeemed it from being utterly disgraceful.

THE SLOW-POISONING CASE.

FURTHER evidence was received on Saturday last in connexion with this mysterious and distressing case. Miss Ann Brecknell, sister of Mrs. Wooler, was examined; and the result of her testimony went to show that Mr. Wooler had exhibited great anxiety about his wife, to whom she believed he had always been strongly attached; that he wrote to the witness very urgently to come and stay with her sister during her illness, and that he seemed very much delighted when she arrived. But she could not recollect what was his demeanour immediately after his wife's death, although she had thrown her arms round his neck on that occasion, and kissed him. She had heard her sister say, shortly before her decease, "Dear Joseph, my dear Joseph!" In answer to questions put by counsel and by the bench, Miss Brecknell confessed to great want of memory with regard to details. She "had not been told by any one to tell anything, or conceal anything: she only wished she had a better memory." A letter having been produced, with the words "Please burn this" written on it, she said that it was written by her.

Miss Lanchester, a lady who attended on Mrs. Wooler, also testified to Mr. Wooler being affectionate to his wife, who had declared she never entertained a wish but her husband gratified it. This witness, also, owing to the state of her feelings, could not recollect how Mr. Wooler seemed when his wife died; but she said he had previously expressed great anxiety for the arrival of the doctors. He read out loud the certificate stating that his wife had been poisoned, and remarked, "They make it out that my dear Jane was poisoned." Miss Marshall, who had also been with Mrs. Wooler during her last illness, had heard Mr. Wooler urge the calling in of Dr. Haslewood, as he had no confidence in Dr. Jackson.

A disclosure of considerable importance was made by Mr. Hensell, surgeon, to whom the urine of the deceased was sent for analysis on several successive days. On one of these occasions—namely, on the day on which certain tingling symptoms, suggestive of poisoning by arsenic, were experienced by the patient—the urine received by Mr. Hensell was sent together with a note from Mr. Wooler. Upon being analysed, the secretion was found to be totally different from what had been previously examined, and appeared to indicate a healthy change. Mr. Hensell and Dr. Haslewood expressed to Mr. Wooler their suspicion that a mistake had occurred; when he called up the maid, Ann Taylor, and then said there had been no mistake. "This," added Dr. Haslewood, "was on the day that the tingling symptoms were reported to him. Mr. Wooler told him that they had come on that day. But Mrs. Wooler replied that he must have forgotten, as she had told him (Mr. Wooler) about them three or four days before." Subsequently, the secretions again exhibited their original character.

Mr. Wooler was once more remanded, to await the result of Dr. Taylor's analyses.

OUR CIVILISATION.

ASSIZE CASES.

A LOVER AND HIS BROKEN HEART.—An action for breach of promise of marriage was brought by a gentleman, Captain Holder, against a Miss Josling, at the Bristol Assizes. In answer to a letter, enclosing a wedding ring, from Captain Holder, Miss Josling, who was a young lady of great attractions, had written to say she accepted his offer and his "dear ring" with pleasure. In subsequent letters, she spoke of her "dearest John," and her "dearest Jack;" sent "lots of love and lots of kisses from your own dear pet;" and mentioned having ordered her "things" for the marriage. She also said that her cousin had gone abroad broken-hearted because she "would not have him." Subsequently she broke off the engagement, on the plea that, having lost her mother about the time of the offer, she was glad of the prospect of a home; but that she had since found she could not love Captain Holder; and she afterwards wrote to the captain's mother, saying she did not approve of his opinions. For the defence, it was shown, by letters from Captain Holder's attorney, that the plaintiff's chief object was to obtain money compensation for the presents he had made, the marriage license he had obtained, and the expenses of his trips to Bath, in courting the lady. Mr. Justice Williams, in summing up, made some very severe remarks, by implication, on the mercenary object of the plaintiff, for whom, however, the jury returned a verdict—damages, 300*l.*—Two cases of breach of promise of the ordinary kind have been tried, one of which was accompanied by seduction. A female witness, who proved the seduction, and who tracked the parties into the lady's bedroom, and spoke to them through the door, said that she "made herself busy, woman-like;" that the plaintiff, "of course," told her to "mind her own business," but that she did not do so. A verdict, in this, as in the other case, was given for the plaintiff.

RAILWAY ROBBERIES.—At the Lancaster Assizes, several officials, of a subordinate capacity, connected with the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway, were found guilty of stealing from trains on that line a large

quantity of silk handkerchiefs, gold pins, cloth, &c. They were all sentenced to penal servitude for four years.

JEALOUSY.—Edward Aspinall has been sentenced to fifteen years' transportation for endeavouring to throw a girl with whom he had been "keeping company" into the Manchester canal. Jealousy was the cause.

A THIEF-HUNT IN NIGHT-CLOTHES.—The premises of Mr. Thomas Fisher, a clothworker in Broker's Alley, Drury Lane, were entered on the night of Friday week by some thieves who had apparently climbed the water spout, and forced open the first-floor window. Several bales of cloth were then removed, and placed in a cab which stood at the door. An assistant of Mr. Fisher was sleeping in the house, and, being roused, went down stairs, and caught sight of the cab as it was being driven off, the thieves themselves escaping on foot. It was a quarter past four in the morning; and the assistant, with nothing on him but his nightshirt, followed the cab through several streets, running at the rate of eight miles an hour, and shouting "Stop thief!" till he was nearly hoarse. The cabman was at length taken into custody by a policeman; and upon being brought before the magistrate at Bow-street, made a very rambling statement. He was remanded, that further inquiries might be made.

PRIVATE PUBLIC HOUSES.—A decent-looking young woman was charged at Lambeth, on her own confession, with stealing a gentleman's watch. The prosecutor said he had met the prisoner some weeks ago in Lambeth, and had treated her with gin at several "private houses." Upon the magistrate asking him what he meant, he said, "I mean private houses where gin is sold when the public houses are closed, of which I should think there are hundreds in Lambeth." The prisoner added that she knew several places where gin and other spirits are privately sold; and in these places bottles containing the spirits are kept between the bed and the mattress. The woman was remanded.

DRUNK AT MID-DAY.—At the same office, on the same day, Jane Dunningham, the wife of a police sergeant, was fined ten shillings for being found helplessly intoxicated in the streets at mid-day, and assaulting a policeman who assisted her. The prisoner, who is a confirmed drunkard, has been in the habit of tramping up charges against the policemen of her husband's division, and but recently got a sergeant reduced to the rank of a constable.

FORGED NOTES.—Robert Drinkwater, a licensed victualler, was charged, at Worship Street, with having severally passed two forged Bank of England notes on Mr. William Jordan, a beer-shop keeper in Spitalfields, who described his house as being a "relieving shop," that is to say, an unlicensed pawnbroker's. The prisoner and another man went to Mr. Jordan's shop; and, after having some refreshment there, Drinkwater tendered in payment a 10*l.* note. Mr. Jordan gave him the change, and he and his friend then left. This note, together with one previously received from the prisoner, was discovered to be not genuine, and Drinkwater, on a subsequent day, was given into custody. Mr. Pelham, for the defence, contended that the passing of the forged notes was unintentional, and begged the magistrate to accept bail for the prisoner, whom he knew to be respectably connected. This being disproved by a policeman in court, bail was refused. The prisoner was remanded for a week.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND ASSAULT.—At the Lambeth Police Court, James Taylor, who has several times been remanded, was re-examined and committed for trial on a charge of assaulting and robbing a journeyman painter named Charles Bowers. On the evening of the 29th ult., he was walking along Albert Street, London-road, when a woman spoke to him, and immediately afterwards Taylor and another man rushed on him, and knocked him down by a violent blow on his left eye. While he was on the ground, they robbed him of all the money he had about him, amounting to 1*l.* 4*s.*, threatening at the same time to "do for him." They did not, however, commit any further violence, but ran away. Bowers pursued them, and overtook the prisoner, whom he seized and held until the arrival of a policeman, when he gave him into custody.—Two cases of highway robbery, accompanied with murderous violence, the one in Liquorpond-street, Gray's Inn-lane, the other in Sharp's-alley, Cow-cross, have been tried at the Middlesex Sessions. The offenders were sentenced to three years' hard labour.

CRAZED.—An infirm old woman, named Mary Ann Smith, was examined, at the Southwark Police Court, on a charge of attempting to lure Joseph Brown, a child three years of age, away from his home. The boy, it appeared, was returning from school, when he was met by the prisoner, who, taking him by the hand, walked off with him in the opposite direction, promising to buy him sweetmeats. They were seen by a young woman who knew both the child and his parents, and who, entertaining some suspicion, asked Smith where she was taking him to, and she answered, "To his home." His home, however, was in the contrary direction; and the woman was given in charge. The prisoner stated to the magistrate that the little boy was her grandson; but the mother of the child declared that she had never seen the woman before. One of the prisoner's own grandchildren was brought into court. He was about the same age

as the other boy, and something like him in appearance. As the prisoner might have mistaken the one for the other, and as she appeared to be of rather unsound mind, she was discharged with a caution.

POLICE RUFFIANISM.—At the Thames police court, two constables brought a charge of assault against an elderly man named Joseph Smith, who had formerly himself been a policeman. The charge was denied by Smith, who brought a counter accusation against the constables. He had found them blocking up the pathway, and had requested them to let him pass; which they refused to do, and one of them not only threatened to kick him, but actually did strike him in the face. This statement was confirmed by three witnesses; and the case against Smith was dismissed. So far, so good; but what of the case against the police officers?

HOCUSING.—The driver of a Hansom cab was called about ten minutes past twelve on Saturday night to convey a young woman, who had been found in a state of insensibility on the pavement in Cheapside, to Camomile-street, Bishopsgate. The woman was followed into the cab by a young man; and, in consequence of something which had been said, the cabman twice lifted the trap in the roof of his vehicle, and saw what convinced him that a criminal assault upon the woman was intended. He therefore gave the man into custody; and the woman was taken to her home. Before the Lord Mayor, the latter stated that she and a female cousin from Sheerness were seeking work in London; that her cousin, on the night in question, went into a shop to inquire about work, leaving her outside; that the prisoner accosted her, and, after some resistance, persuaded her to take a glass of wine; and that, after drinking this at a public-house, she became insensible, and so remained until Sunday morning. Ann Smith, her cousin, stated that, after missing her, she found her insensible in Cheapside; that she did not observe the prisoner follow her into the cab, and that she did not herself get in, because she thought she should have to pay a second fare beforehand, and she had no money. The prisoner said he was so drunk that he recollect nothing about it, but that he was sure he meant no harm. He was bound over to meet the charge on a future occasion. It is satisfactory to add that his contemplated purpose was not effected.

STARVATION-DESPERATE.—A young man, in great destitution, was sentenced at Westminster to a fortnight's imprisonment for breaking glass in the workhouse windows. It appeared that a large number of destitute paupers, who have been refused admittance, have latterly made organised attacks upon the building, saying that they are going to assault Sebastopol.

A DESPERATE FIGHT.—Dennis Daly was taken into custody in the Hampstead-road for pocket-picking, and, while being conveyed to the station-house, a mob assembled, and attempted a rescue. The policeman sought refuge in a butcher's shop to await assistance, when the prisoner seized a knife, and attempted to cut his necktie, in order to get off. Foiled in this, he sought to stab the constable, whose fingers were in fact cut; and the latter would probably have been murdered, had not the butcher's wife wrested the weapon, and afterwards another, from his hand. Before reaching the butcher's shop, the policeman was knocked down, and severely kicked. The prisoner was committed for trial. The butcher has been a great sufferer, as the mob pillaged the front part of his shop of a good many joints.

PATRICK MAYTOWER, an Irish labourer, has been sent to trial on a charge of aggravated assault, almost amounting to murder, on his aunt.—Several other cases of brutal assault, of the usual character, and inclusive of savage wife-beating, have come before the magistrates this week. Trials for savage personal outrages have also been frequent at the Middlesex Sessions.

ANN DOWNES, the wife of a bedstead-maker in the Borough, has been committed for trial, charged with stealing a box containing money from a neighbour.

GAS ROBBERY.—Henry Cash, a smith and brass founder, has been sentenced to a year's hard labour for having stolen two thousand feet of gas from the Commercial Gas Company. The company had supplied him up to a certain time, and had then ceased to do so; but the prisoner connected a pipe to the service pipe, and helped himself. The light was carefully concealed from people out of doors, and this went on for some three years; so that the company had been defrauded to the amount of more than three hundred pounds. The theft, probably, would never have been discovered, had not two of the prisoner's discharged workmen given information.

"ANYWHERE, ANYWHERE, OUT OF THE WORLD!"—A young Welshwoman attempted, a few nights ago, to drown herself in the Serpentine. Being rescued, and brought before the magistrate at Marlborough-street, she told her history, which was a sad one. She had been seduced, and had gone upon the town; had been rescued by a clergyman, and taken to live in his house; had been again seduced, this time by the clergyman's brother; had come up to London, and had gone on Monday to Cremorne Gardens. Here she passed the night in drinking, became frantic, and flung herself into the river. A person in court undertook to see after her, and she left in his company.

MURDER OF A HUSBAND.—Elizabeth Kennedy has

been committed for trial at Bristol for the murder of her husband. The prisoner had been jealous of the deceased, and a few days ago went to seek him in the streets. On finding him, she flung a stone at his head; and he shortly afterwards died from the effects of the blow.

THE TRADE IN WOMEN.—At Marlborough Street, on Wednesday, Henry Templeman was ordered to find bail to answer the charge of keeping a house of ill-fame in Newman-street. The house is well known as being connected with the traffic in foreign women, and has more than once attracted the notice of the police and parish authorities. Matilde Colbert, the head of the firm, was also brought into court dressed in man's apparel, and was required to find bail to answer the same charge. The woman was taken into custody in Panton-street in her disguise, and just prepared for a flight to France.

TUCK GUY, the Chinese juggler who was severely wounded some weeks ago in an affray with several of his countrymen, is now convalescent, though at first his life was despaired of; and on Thursday he appeared at the Thames police-court, and gave evidence. All the four prisoners were committed for trial.

EDWARD AGAR has been remanded at the Mansion House on a charge of uttering a forged cheque for 700*l.* on the house of Messrs. Stevenson, Salt, and Co., of Lombard-street. He had got a carpenter to present the cheque, and had furnished him with a very elaborate tale to give in answer to any questions which might be addressed to him at the banking-house. A bag containing farthings and waste paper was given for the cheque, the fraudulent character of which was discovered.

PETER VANDENBROOK, a professor of languages, was found guilty on Thursday, at the Middlesex Sessions, of stealing three diamond pins and a pistol. On the same day, William Falkner, a jeweller, was convicted of receiving watches and jewellery which he knew to be stolen; and Benedetto Spinola, an Italian, said to be highly educated, and connected with a respectable Sardinian family, was sentenced to a year's hard labour for stealing two hundred pounds from a countryman.

THE REIGN OF TERROR AND MADNESS IN ITALY.

NAPLES, at the present moment, may be said to be under a Reign of Terror. In addition to the horrible instances of oppression and intimidation which we recorded last week, several cases of a similar nature have since come to light. A lithographer, having made a device for the bottom of a gentleman's hat, accompanied by the words "Costanza e Fedeltà al nostro augusto unico Signore e Padrone Assoluto Ferdinando," asked permission of the authorities, according to law, to proceed with his work, and have it printed. For the offence of thus obeying the law, he was imprisoned for several days, because "he did not understand that some things are to be done from an impulse of devotion, and not with the usual forms of permission." The *Daily News* Naples Correspondent, who relates the foregoing, states that even the military are now under the heel of the police, and adds the following anecdote:—"An officer having been insulted by a policeman, corrected him with the flat of his sword. Sbirro lays his complaint before his superior. 'Had you your dagger by your side?' was the first question. 'Yes.' 'And why was it not used?' He was then driven from the presence with reproaches, and turned out of his situation." The people are goaded to desperation; and two pamphlets have been discovered, vehemently denouncing the Government. But, while quiet persons are punished for obeying the law, the police are allowed to break it. Bourbon or Royalist clubs, though they are notoriously illegal, have been established; and it is said the Commissary of Police, Campagna, is at the bottom of one. The members are reputed to be armed.

From Rome, we have further details of the Pope's cursing.

The Allocutions of his Holiness on the affairs of Piedmont, Spain, and Switzerland, have been published. They are rather long speeches; and their style is diffuse, abounding in unnecessary synonyms, like an Act of Parliament. Having, with respect to Piedmont, lamented in general terms over "that supremely unjust and disastrous law by which it was proposed, among other things, to suppress almost all the monastic and religious communities of either sex, the collegiate churches, all the simple benefices with right of patronage, and to hand over their revenues and property to the administration and free disposition of the civil power," his Holiness reminds all offenders that they "have incurred major excommunications, and the other censures and ecclesiastical penalties imposed by the sacred canons," &c. It greatly grieves the Holy Father thus "to depart from that gentleness and mansuetude to which he is 'naturally inclined;' but still he must do his duty. As regards Spain, the Pope alludes to an agreement made in 1861 with "his very dear daughter," the Queen, with respect to the rights of the church, which was to have the exclusive care of education, and was to be maintained "to the exclusion of every other form of worship." He adds—"with a heart full of astonishment

and grief"—that this agreement has been broken. "Laws have been passed which, to the great injury of religion, destroy the first and second articles of the Concordat, and which ordain the sale of the property of the church. Various decrees have been published by which bishops are forbidden to confer holy orders, and the virgins consecrated to God prevented from admitting others as novices in their own institute, and by which it is ordered that the lay chaplainships and other pious institutions shall be completely secularised." All who so transgress are reminded that "they cannot escape the hand of the Almighty." Similar complaints are made against the Papal cantons of Switzerland; but the affairs of those states are to be criticised more at large on a subsequent occasion.

Three magnates of the Roman Government have been arrested for lewd intercourse with female prisoners, almost amounting in one case to a rape. It is thought that these revered offenders will not receive any very severe punishment. Highway robberies and burglaries in the Roman States are increasing in an alarming degree; and the use of the bastinado is to be revived.

The Spanish Minister, Senor Pacheco, has demanded his passports, and is about to leave Rome as soon as he has had an audience to present the "Memorandum" of his Government to his Holiness. He takes the whole of his diplomatic staff with him, except Senor Moreno, who remains charged with the execution of ecclesiastical business only.

A correspondent of the *Indépendance Belge* writes from Turin that, at the request of the Archbishops of Piedmont, the Holy See authorises the clergy of that kingdom to receive the sums put at their disposal by the Government, conformably to the new law relative to the convents. They are to protest, but not to refuse the cash.

When will the great heart and brain of Italy awake, and throw off these ugly yet preposterous nightmares?

MADemoiselle DOUDET.

(From a private letter.)

Paris, Aug. 16.

I SUPPOSE the great majority of the public have already forgotten a case which excited so much interest a few months ago, namely, that of Mlle. Doudet, a governess, accused of cruelty to some children confided to her care. She was tried and condemned. The ends of justice seemed satisfied. The victim went to her cell. The public passed on, dividing its attention between various other judicial spectacles, or pausing to wonder at the reappearance of Lasnier on the surface of society. They had consigned him also long before to oblivion. The ends of justice also seemed satisfied. The victim had gone to the galleys. His head had probably been moulded as that of a celebrated criminal. It starts up as that of a martyr—a painful reproach to the pit of the Cour d'Assises.

Many persons believe that before long Mlle. Doudet will again enjoy the unenviable honour of studding the columns of the Paris papers with her name. She stands in a remarkable position. Although the mere lovers of excitement no longer think of her, or think of her only as a kind of vampire most justly chained up between stone walls, a large and increasing section of the public of the salons—of those best situated to obtain correct impressions on this matter—appear to be becoming more and more firm and even triumphant in the assertion of her innocence. This, in itself, tells singularly in her favour. It is not wonderful that her friends rallied round her whilst the struggle was going on. But she has been condemned, her appeals have been rejected; and yet her partisans increase in number and in fervour. Is not this a notable phenomenon? And, mark! she has no beauty, no youth, nothing romantic about her to excite the sympathies of young men and girls. Young men think the case a bore; and girls are forbidden by their parents to study its details. Mlle. Doudet's friends are all married women and mothers, or sober men, politicians, magistrates, who have accidentally had her strange adventures forced upon them. . . . The whole case against the victim really rests on a marvellous supposition—that it is possible for a woman of strong mind so to influence children on whom she has exercised great cruelty that after they have been delivered from her they shall continue to write affectionate letters for some time. Obviously the natural inference is, that if the children were so impressionable as to be induced to make wilful false statements by fear of an absent person, they could also be induced to make wilful false statements by fear of a present person. . . . I have very carefully examined all the evidence in this case; and am quite convinced of Mlle. Doudet's innocence. It is quite impossible that she should be guilty. In fact, in an English court of justice the case would have broken down at once. However, I will not at present examine the details—merely wishing to draw your attention to the consoling fact that public opinion is struggling, and may probably struggle with success, against the decrees of a series of prejudiced courts. We Englishmen are particularly interested in this question on general grounds. When the first examination of Mlle. Doudet took

place by the police, equivalent to an examination at Bow-street, except that it is private, she was most emphatically pronounced innocent. Then she was brought before a jury, and although very disgraced attempts were made to influence its members, she was acquitted. But then she was forced to appear before one of those anomalous courts of which France is so proud—in which the offices of judge and accuser are practically united in the same person. No one can deny the fact that before hearing a particle of evidence, M. Hatten exhibited an absolute conviction that Mlle. Doudet was guilty; and when the case seemed likely to break down from the apparent absence of all motive on her part, tried to bully her into confessing that she had been in love with the father of the children she had maltreated! It has already been remarked that it is a principle in France that "everybody is supposed to be guilty until he is proved to be innocent." Throughout this remarkable case—as soon as it was taken out of the province of the jury—I was perpetually reminded of that observation. Generally speaking, it is true, the French judge, although incited by self-love to endeavour to make every trial end in a condemnation—and inclined therefore to abuse the power placed so absurdly in their hands of torturing a prisoner by questions and cross-questions to obtain an admission of guilt—are not inaccessible to very strong proofs of innocence. In this instance, however, many circumstances combined to warp their judgment. The complainant was an Englishman—the accused a Frenchwoman; and the case was first brought forward in the midst of the early enthusiasm of the alliance. Worse than this, there is the violent anti-Protestant feeling stimulated by the clergy, and so easy to be directed against a Protestant governor in a country where Jesuits now claim the whole guidance of education. A lady in a high position the other day being told by a friend that she had visited Mlle. Doudet, exclaimed not, "What, that criminal!" but "What, that Protestant!" This will illustrate the state of feeling here. I am quite certain that the result of the trial was influenced by it. The judges who decided went constantly into the society where M. Chaix d'Est Ange, retained for the accusation, exercised himself for months, for the amusement of foolish ladies, in relating the case with all the ornaments which his imagination could devise. They were irretrievably prejudiced before they came and sat on the bench. Then the priests whirled in their ear. This is how it happened, that in the teeth of all exculpatory evidence, and in the absence of all sound condemnatory evidence, the poor woman was found guilty, and condemned at last to five years' imprisonment. Such stupendous things, however, cannot happen, even in France, without leaving many consciences disturbed; and this I suppose is the reason why suddenly the rumour gets abroad that the whole case may very shortly be revised. At any rate, even many of the persons who concurred in bringing about the condemnation would breathe more freely now if it were announced that Mlle. Doudet had received her grace.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO PARIS.

THE *Moniteur* has the following:—"The Queen of England will make her entry into Paris on Saturday next at about six o'clock in the evening, and will proceed from the terminus of the Strasbourg Railway to the Palace of St. Cloud by the Boulevard de Strasbourg, the Boulevard from the Porte St. Denis to the Madeleine, the Rue Royale, Place de la Concorde, Champ Elysées, Avenue de l'Impératrice, the Bois de Boulogne, and Bridge of St. Cloud." According to the *Morning Post*, there will be theatricals at St. Cloud; visits to the Exposition, the Grand Opera, the Opera Comique, the Louvre, and the Hôtel des Invalides; Concerts of the *Conservatoire de Musique*; a grand ball at the Hôtel de Ville; a review in the Champ-de-Mars; drive in the Forest of St. Germain, &c.

The French Minister of Finance has laid before the Emperor the last returns relative to the loan. These show an increase upon the amounts indicated approximately in the report of the 30th ult. The number of subscribers reaches 316,864. The capital subscribed for is 3,652,591,985 fr.

General Armandi died on the 3rd inst., at Aix-la-Bains, in Savoy, where the physicians of Paris had ordered him to go for the recovery of his health. This distinguished Italian officer had been preceptor to the present Emperor of the French. He took an active part with General Pépé in the heroic defence of Venice, and was latterly Director of the Imperial Library of the Palace of St. Cloud.

The Emperor of Austria has withdrawn the sequestration imposed by the ordinance of February 18, 1863, on the property of thirty-one persons, political offenders, but rumour says that only three of these persons' property sufficient to be worth seizing.—The official *Gazette* of Milan (which is of course an Austrian publication) has an article speaking contemptuously of the idea of an Italian Legion for England, and using very insulting expressions towards this country in connexion with our doings at Taganrog and Kerch.

At the Dardanelles, order has been restored; but the Bashi-Bazouk deserters scour the neighbouring

villages, and make great havoc. Numerous desertions have also taken place from the Anglo-Turkish contingent at Constantinople, and there is some probability of its being removed to Shumla. It is stated that the Rothschilds have lent ten millions to the Porte at six per cent.

From Lille, we hear that the political offenders, Dumas, Cordelier, and Desumourez, have been acquitted. Dhennie was found guilty of conspiring to kill the Emperor, and Desquiers of a participation in a plot. Extenuating circumstances are admitted. Dhennie is sentenced to hard labour for life, and Desquiers to five years' imprisonment.

The cholera has broken out with much intensity at Sassari, one of the chief cities of Sardinia. The populace are in a state of great agitation. Many persons have barricaded themselves in their houses; others attempted to take refuge in the country, but the peasants received them with pointed muskets, and they were compelled to return. The Piedmontese Government, on hearing of these mournful facts, despatched a steamer from Genoa with medical men, drugs, &c.

The brigands in Greece arrest and kill all they meet, even at the very gates of the city. The king persists in requiring the retirement of Kaleri. He wishes to have for Minister of War Botzaris, who has just arrived from Russia. The ministers have all tendered their resignations.

Smyrna continues to be ravaged by brigandage. "The Daily News Vienna correspondent writes:—An American circular despatch to all the European cabinets on the subject of the Sound dues has been received here, and caused a great sensation. The Government of the United States express their determination to relieve their ships and cargoes from the further payment of these dues, levied in defiance of all justice and international laws, and invite all the commercial and maritime states to follow their good example.—The Prince de Joinville is expected to arrive in this city next week on a visit to his relative the Comte de Chambord."

The district of Ponalba, in Piedmont, is being ravaged by locusts, which eat up the crops, and, falling into the wells and cisterns, poison them. Sixty-three persons have already died from drinking the water thus contaminated. The people are flying in terror.

A ministerial crisis in Constantinople seems imminent. The old Turkish party, which represents the principles of intolerance, despotism, and corruption, is trying to regain its ascendancy over the Reformers. Mehmet Ali is looked up to by the Liberals, as we should here call them, as the only man capable of governing the country.

Prince Ghika, the newly reinstalled Hospodar of Moldavia, has accepted the proposals made by a French company for the construction of a railroad from the Danube to the Austrian frontiers in the Bukovina, passing through the valley of the Sereth.

Mr. Thomas Wilson, an Englishman, has, since the year 1848, constantly recommended the cutting of a canal from the Danube to the sea—that is to say, from Rasseva to Kustendje. It is understood that this project has been pressed upon Turkey by the English Government, and that there is a probability of its being executed.

THE TELEGRAPHIC LINE from St. Petersburg to Sebastopol is now in operation throughout its entire extent.

The *Madrid Gazette* announces that Nicholas Hierros, one of the chiefs of the insurgent band which created so much trouble in Burgos, had given himself up to the Queen's troops.

A singular discovery has been made at Aix-la-Chapelle. In a bale of cotton shipped from the United States to Warsaw, by way of Antwerp, there were found several six-barrel revolvers and a quantity of powder.

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS.

A GIGANTIC STEAM-RAFT has been projected by Mr. Duff, civil engineer, who has employed thirteen years in maturing his scheme. The chief features we find thus described:—It is proposed that the raft should be formed of 400 pontoon-shaped iron boats, nearly all 100 feet long by 10 feet wide and 7 deep, having semicircular bottoms and sides, and flanged on the edges or gunwales. With 15 of these placed longitudinally, the length of the raft would be 1500 feet, and 20 in breadth, and 5 feet spans between each would give a width of 300 feet. Thus the deck area would be little short of 300 acres. The pontoon boats it is proposed to brace together by diagonal tie bars, while the deck would be formed of timber six inches thick, firmly bolted to the flanges, and having hatchways into each of the boats, which would thus furnish the accommodation and storage required for passengers and goods. Bulwarks are contemplated, 12 feet 6 inches high, and consisting of hollow iron stanchions, 33 feet 4 inches apart from each other, with iron compartments between, made to open from the top on centres. It is proposed by the bold projector of this new leviathan to propel her by 22 steam-engines of at least 200 horse power each, 11 on each side of the raft, with paddles and screws affixed alternately. The calculation is that the raft will carry a freight of 20,000 tons, though perfectly safe and

steady without; will obtain a speed of 15 knots an hour; will draw only 3 feet 6 inches of water, and give a surface sufficient to act as a floating breakwater in the roughest sea.

THE HANSA.—Major Lowth again writes to the *Times* to comment on the injurious effect which the state of this vessel had upon his late brother, and to dispute the explanations given by Sir Charles Wood in the House of Commons.

A SOLDIER ACCIDENTALLY SHOT.—Private Samuel Coace, of the 11th Regiment, was accidentally killed by a rifle-shot while engaged in military practice at Battlehill, near Brecon. The unfortunate was one of the markers, and had incautiously exposed himself.

HINTS FOR SOLDIERS.—Some admirable suggestions, addressed to Rifle-men, have been issued from the depot of the second battalion of the 60th Rifles. Together with rules of a more purely technical character, we find the following excellent recommendations touching what may almost be called the domesticities of an army. It is pleasant to find the soldier thus spoken to as a human being, and not as a mere machine for slaughtering:—"I strongly advise your learning and practising songs and choruses in which all can join. You may not always have a band with you; but a good song, sung in good time, and with a good chorus in which all can join, will help to keep you all in good humour, and to cheer many a weary hour; and will be found of great assistance in lifting you along when on the line of march. A man who has a good stock of amusing stories will also be a welcome comrade round a camp fire."

A ROMANTIC DRUMMER BOY.—A boy has lately been sworn in as a drummer to the 86th Regiment who is known to be the son of a brigadier-general lately deceased, and the nephew of a rear-admiral still living. Being under sixteen (the minimum age), he was sworn in by special authority.

AN AFFRAY took place on Wednesday, at the close of the Reading races, between two or three hundred militiamen and the police. Several of the latter were severely wounded.

OBITUARY.

GENERAL SIR RICHARD BOURKE, K.C.B., has died suddenly at Thornfield, Castle Connell, near Limerick. He was born in 1777, and served in South America and in the Peninsula. For some years he was governor of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land.

COLONEL RICHARD TYLDEN, of the Royal Engineers, who died at Scutari on the 28th of July from the effect of wounds received on the 18th of June, was in the thirty-sixth year of his age. When at the Cape, during the Kaffir war, he greatly distinguished himself by defeating two thousand of the rebels under Sandilli with a very small force of burghers and Fingoes.

MR. PATRICK PARK, the sculptor, died suddenly on Thursday morning at Warrington. He was in the prime of life.

THE DUKE OF SOMERSET expired on Wednesday. He was President of the Royal Institution, a member of several philosophical associations, and the author of some scientific treatises. The Duke is succeeded by Lord Seymour, the member for Totness.

MR. HENRY COLBURN, the well-known publisher of Great Marlborough-street, expired a day or two ago. Mr. Colburn's name is associated with some of the most important works and authors of the present century. As the first publisher of the diaries of Pepsy and Evelyn, and as the introducer to the world of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton's earliest fictions, Mr. Colburn is a person worthy of some note. He will leave behind him many friends, to whom his liberality as a tradesman is known.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen and the royal family, on Tuesday evening, were present at the Cowes Regatta. Several of the competitors, after the races, were called to the side of the royal yacht, and liberally rewarded by direction of the Queen.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A railway bridge, in connexion with the projected East Kent line, is now in course of erection; and on Saturday morning an accident occurred, by which three of the workmen have been suddenly killed. Hollow cylinders having, as usual in such cases, been laid down for the foundations of the piers, a steam-engine was employed in pumping out the water, in order that the hollow tubes might be filled in with concrete and gravel to serve as a substratum for the masonry. The men connected with the works were obliged to descend several times to the bottom of one of these tubes in a diving-bell; when suddenly the bottoms came out of the buckets employed in sending down the concrete, &c., and the whole mass, amounting to many hundredweights, fell inside the cylinders, carrying away the stages and the diving-bell. Three men were buried in the debris; and their bodies, when dug out several hours after, were found frightfully mangled. An inquest has been held, when the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, with a recommendation to alter the present cylinders.

KENSINGTON GARDENS.—Sir Benjamin Hall has signified his accession to the office of Public Works

by obtaining her Majesty's permission for the band of one of the regiments of Life Guards to perform in Kensington Gardens on Sunday afternoons between five and seven.

CAPTAIN M'CLURE.—We can state on authority that, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on the Arctic Expedition, moved for by Mr. Mackinnon, Captain M'Clure has received 5000*l.*, and a similar sum is to be distributed among his officers and crew.—*Times*.

THE LATE SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—A letter from Lady Franklin to the Chairman of the Arctic Committee has been published. In it, she claims for her husband and his companions the discovery of a north-west passage, since she conceives they could not have reached the spot where their dead bodies were found without having solved the problem. She does not, however, dispute Captain M'Clure's claims to an independent discovery.

THE STRIKE OF COLLIERIES AT RUABON.—About 1500 men and boys have been on strike at Ruabon for the last six weeks, and there is at present no prospect of a compromise. A deputation from the colliers waited on Mr. Ravenshaw, managing director, but made no distinct proposition. Mr. Ravenshaw told them that the company were willing to give the rates they had acceded to in April, but that one shilling per week would still be deducted for the supply of candles. As to the slack or small coal, they would be allowed threepence per ton for raising it, provided it were sent up clean and good. This sum would be an increase on their wages. The deputation declined the terms Mr. Ravenshaw proposed.

AMERICA.—The last accounts from America state that affairs look very ominous in the Mormon settlements. Colonel Steptoe has resigned, and Brigham Young is again dominant. It is thought by some that the United States troops which have been sent in the direction of Utah, nominally in order to keep the Indians in check, are in fact intended to have an eye on the Mormons. Those fanatics, however, are surrounding their cities with high walls, and there seems every prospect of their giving trouble to the troops. But it is not improbable that the saints will be obliged to emigrate bodily, owing to the legions of grasshoppers, crickets, and locusts which threaten to devastate the land. In case of their removal, some of the South Sea Islands are talked of as being their probable new home.—A great deal of excitement prevails in California owing to the elections for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, &c. The yield of the gold mines is said to be unparalleled; and there is talk of silver mines. The Chinese are shipping to their own land the dead bodies of their countrymen. Fires are of constant occurrence, and the *San Francisco Herald* says, "the annual fire season has set in." Murders and lynch-law executions are also terribly frequent.—Santa Anna is granting concessions to the revolutionists. Two American ships of war have been ordered to the Fiejee, on an important service. The civil war in Nicaragua is still raging. A correspondence has passed between Mr. Parish, the English consul, and the Government of Buenos Ayres, with reference to a settlement of the claims of the Buenos Ayres bondholders; but the Ministers refuse to give any assurances of a satisfactory nature.

THE CROPS.—The recent change in the weather, from excessive rain to comparative dryness, has had a very favourable effect upon the crops. Judging from the accounts received from all parts of the island, we believe it may be stated in general terms that the corn has not been damaged to the extent at one time anticipated, and that, should the present dry weather continue, the yield will be of more than average excellence. Still, there is no question that the extremely brilliant prospects entertained in the early summer will not be realised to the full; a great deal of corn having been laid, and necessarily deteriorated. A similar account may be given of the grain crops of Ireland, where, moreover, the potato blight, though it has undoubtedly appeared, has not spread in any serious degree. The accounts from the Continent vary considerably; and the state of the crops in America seems analogous to that in this country.

COLLISION IN THE CHANNEL.—The steam-packet which left Dover for Calais on Saturday night at half-past eleven came into collision with the brigantine Henry, of Yarmouth, bound from Shields to Rouen, deeply laden with coal, when the latter was sunk, and the master, the mate, and a boy sunk with the vessel, not having been able to cast the boat they had got into adrift from the ship. Two other men who were on board were picked up by the boat of the packet. It is stated that the collier, anchored in the fair way, about half a mile off Dover harbour, and that she had no lights up. This is denied by one of the survivors.

LOST IN A QUICKSAND.—A man dredging for shrimps on the sands at Sunderland, was suddenly engulfed in a quicksand, and disappeared, exclaiming, "Lord Jesus, save me!"

DROWNED.—A man and a woman were drowned close to Southwark Bridge on Sunday, owing to an accident to the boat in which they were sitting.

SUSPECTED MURDER.—A sailor has been found dead on the causeway facing New Crown Wharf, Wapping Wall, with a severe wound in his head. The police are making inquiries.

Mr. JOHN FROST, the Chartist, writing from New York on June 9th to a friend in London, expresses a strong desire to return to his native country, and spend his last days among familiar scenes. It is now fifteen years since his original transportation; he is seventy years of age; and we must say we hope the Government will not deny his natural and touching request.

STATE OF TRADE.—The trade reports of the various manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday, describe scarcely any alteration, a moderate and steady, but not animated, business being still the feature in almost all districts. At Birmingham and Nottingham, a greater feeling of confidence has been engendered by the disappearance of insolvent firms; but we are sorry to find that the accounts from the Irish linen markets indicate a cessation of the recent revival of activity.

FOREIGN SHIPS AND THE POST-OFFICE.—A correspondence between Messrs. Sinclair, Hamilton, and Co., and the Post-office, has elicited the fact that, according to a standing regulation, mails are not despatched by any foreign private ship that may leave this country, even although the senders may desire it.

Mr. MASSEY, M.P. for Newport, has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, in succession to the Hon. W. F. Cowper, now President of the Board of Health.—*Globe*.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—A pawnbroker's shop near Bermondsey-wall has been burnt to the ground. Four of the inmates perished.

A POOR WOMAN, the wife of a sailor now serving in the Baltic, has complained at the Westminster police-office that she has been unable to obtain at the Admiralty the half-pay which her husband has transmitted to England. Many other sailors' wives, she said, were similarly treated.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, August 18.

ATTACK ON THE TCHERNAYA—DEFEAT OF THE RUSSIANS.

War Department, August 17.

THE following important telegraphic despatches have been received from Lord Panmure:—

Varna, August 16, 1.30 P.M.

The Russians attacked the position on the Tchernaya this morning at daylight in great force. The action lasted about three hours, but they were completely repulsed by the French and Sardinians.

The Russian attack of the morning was under the command of General Liprandi, with from 50,000 or 60,000 men.

Their loss is estimated at between four and five thousand. About four hundred prisoners have been taken.

The loss on the side of the Allies is very small.

Further particulars will be sent.

REOPENING OF THE BOMBARDMENT.

War Department.

Lord Panmure has received the following intelligence from General Simpson, dated Crimea, 16th August:—

"General Pelissier and I have decided on opening fire from the English and French batteries at dawn to-morrow morning."

SWEABORG.

The casualties on the English side are—killed, none; two officers and about thirty men wounded. The French loss is equally trifling.

Paris, Friday.

The most important item in the news from Turkey is that a strong Russian division is marching on Erzeroum, and that all the disposable Turkish forces in Anatolia are hastening towards the same place.

General Canrobert has arrived.

Constantinople, Aug. 9.

Omar Pacha will return to the Crimea.

The insurrection at Tripoli continues. Two Turkish regiments will be sent there.

A NEW SCREW-PROPELLER.—We observed on the river yesterday a small steamer propelled by a machine resembling in its action a reaping-machine, and throwing the water over like a cascade. How would this propeller act in a heavy sea?

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NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest. Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

* * FIVEPENCE is now the price for an UNSTAMPED copy of the *Leader*, and SIXPENCE if STAMPED.

A STAMPED copy of this Journal can be transmitted through the Post-office to any part of Great Britain as frequently as may be required, during fifteen days from its date, free of charge; but it is necessary that the paper should be folded in such a manner that the stamp be clearly visible on the outside.

The *Leader* has been "registered" at the General Post-office, according to the provisions of the New Act relating to Newspapers, and a STAMPED copy has, therefore, the privilege of transmission through the post beyond the United Kingdom on payment of the proper rate of postage.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1855.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO FRANCE.

THE presence of a Queen of England as a guest in the French capital is in itself a great and happy event; and if she were really the guest of the French nation, an event more full of good omens for humanity would scarcely have occurred in the history of mankind.

But, unhappily, the Queen is not the guest of the French nation. By those in whom the honour and intelligence, and therefore the nationality of France, really reside, her visit will be regarded as a cruel and gratuitous insult, a revelling in their misfortune, a ratification of their shame, a proclamation by the representative of British freedom that France is unworthy to be free.

Others may chant their pæans in honour of the QUEEN's auspicious visit. We shall do her more service by apologising, as far as our voice can be heard, for her terrible mistake. She goes, deluded by amiable visions, hoping to lay the foundations of amity and perpetual peace. She goes, unless her action be explained, to sow the seeds of fierce resentment and future war. Let Englishmen imagine the position of France to be theirs—let them imagine a JAMES II. to be successful in his designs against English liberty. With what feelings would they see the libertine receive the congratulatory visit of a foreign prince? What would be their requital to that prince when they regained their freedom? Have English statesmen made up their minds that it is safe to insult the ashes of French liberty—that Frenchmen have become *fantoccini* for ever?

We would fain assure the friends of liberty in France that this interchange of visits means nothing more on the part of the English Court

and the mass of the English people than a generous, though thoughtless, enthusiasm for the French alliance. On our honour we believe this to be the pure and simple truth. We believe that England sees nothing but the outstretched hand of a French sovereign, and that she grasps it as that of a long-estranged and long-desired friend. We believe that the internal state of France is entirely lost sight of; that no opinion is pronounced on the legality of the present régime; and that the restoration of French liberty would be hailed in England with almost universal joy. This is not a justification. Reflection and consideration are necessary in our dealings with others, as well as good intentions. A more confirmed and intelligent political morality would have saved us from the possibility of error. But the friends of liberty in France are bound to take notice now, and to remember hereafter, that this apparent condemnation of their cause is the error, not the crime, of our nation.

Add, too, that the illusion was one into which it was easy to fall. After feeling so long the unworthy suspicions and diplomatic jealousies of successive French Governments, after being used so long as a bugbear for the electioneering purposes of French factions, England is naturally prone to believe in the domestic popularity and legitimacy of a French dynasty which offers her a cordial and frank alliance. Let the constitutional statesmen of France learn a lesson from their enemy.

Have the mass of the French people themselves yet realised the fact that what they have suffered to be imposed on them is a despotic dynasty, not a temporary dictator? If not, let our people stand excused for overlooking a fact which intelligence alone in France discerns.

But is there no intelligence in England? Yes. And that intelligence, though state necessity suppresses its voice, dissents in private from the popular aberration. The best and purest of English statesmen have not renounced their faith in freedom; they regard this efficient complicity of their nation in the designs of despotism with sad hearts and averted eyes. Let any Frenchman of character who has lately mixed in English society be our witness that this is true.

There are, indeed, political adventurers in this country, who pay a free homage to that success which is their only god; who openly triumphed in the *coup d'état*, and who from the first sought to obtain the patronage of LOUIS NAPOLEON by constituting themselves his sycophants and bravos. But these men are as infamous among honest politicians in England as FOULD and MORST are in France.

The character of French journalism again, and the part which statesmen have taken in it, may lead to an exaggerated indignation at the sycophancy of the English press. The journal whose wealth enables it to appear as the chief representative of English opinion is in fact, and professes to be, a purely commercial enterprise, conducted by men who write without conviction, stockjobbers of journalism, carrying on, without even a suspicion that it is immoral, a system of organised treachery towards all causes and all men. Let the Republic rise in the market, and we will guarantee her a panegyric as fervent as those which have been lavished on the Emperor; this panegyric probably is already written and in stock, to provide for the mutability of human affairs, and the mortality of empires. These things are not regarded seriously in England. They never excite indignation, seldom even disgust. Let France, too, pass them over with a scornful smile.

In brief, we adjure our friends in France to regard our QUEEN as that which, in intent, she is, the messenger of cordial friendship, unalloyed on the part of the great mass of our people by the slightest thought of congratulating successful crime or insulting the fallen liberties of France. The sentiment which animates her breast and those of the vast majority of her subjects is that of pure good-will, of overflowing joy at our alliance, of entire respect for the French nation. This is our sincere and intense conviction, which we earnestly repeat, acknowledging at the same time the error which has converted an international alliance, understood and respected by all, into the semblance of a personal complicity, revolting to all that is noble and true in France. We are almost alone in the press, but we are not alone in England; we have with us all that is true and noble in the land, we have with us the heart of the people, when we say that for France, as for ourselves, we hold fast amidst all disappointments and disasters to the hope of freedom and the communion of the free.

SURVEY OF THE WAR.

NEWS of the most stirring character has arrived this week from the theatre of war, both in the Baltic and the Crimea; and has raised expectation to the highest pitch. The war "moves" once more.

The Baltic.—The Allied fleet has done something; as we write, no one can tell the precise value of its achievement. The telegraph says that the gunboats and mortar-vessels of the Allies have destroyed Sweaborg. We do not desire to underrate the importance of what has been accomplished, but we may be permitted to doubt whether it is so extensive as is implied in the word "destroyed." It appears from the words of the British Admiral that the gunboats and mortar-vessels bombarded the place for two days and two nights, blowing up powder magazines, burning consumable buildings, and at least greatly damaging the heavily-armed granite batteries. Before we have the details, now momentarily expected, we cannot of course describe how this was accomplished, nor its extent; but we will try to describe Sweaborg, and place the reader on a par with ourselves.

Sweaborg consisted of a chain of islands, intersected by narrow but deep water, stretching across the entrance of the fine bay of Helsingfors. These islands are more than a mile in length, measuring from Langern to Gustava-Swert. In the course of last century Marshal ERNENSWART, seeing their admirable situation, built a fortress on the Wargön, and constructed spacious locks and basins on that side of the island facing the mainland. By degrees the whole of the islands were converted into formidable forts, the guns of which sweep the sea-front, and command the channels leading to the bay. Each series of works was complete in itself, containing its own stores, and having bomb-proof cover. Wargön, in the centre of the front line, was considered by the Russians, in 1809, as the citadel of the place; but they have since made Gustava-Swert equally strong, if not stronger. In some places there are triple rows of batteries cut out of the solid granite, with scarped faces to the sea. The rear is also protected against an attack from the main by strong batteries; and it is understood that, apprehensive of a land attack, the Russians have strengthened every point with earthworks. The cannon mounted on the walls of Sweaborg were of the largest calibre, and the whole of the forts were no doubt fully supplied with munitions of war.

Our commanders saw at a glance that

although there is water deep enough to float the largest ships up to the forts and through the channels into the bay, yet that the terrible array of guns and the peculiar character of some of the works rendered an attack by the heavy liners quite desperate. There are, however, scattered over the front of this chain of islands several rocky islets at unequal distances, ranging between two miles and one and a half. When the admirals received the reinforcement of gunboats and mortar-vessels, in all forty, the greater part British, they conceived the plan of a bombardment from a distance, and took advantage of the islets above mentioned, which would afford shelter for their boats. This we infer from the statement that the attack would be opened by the small vessels at 2500 yards distance; and as some of the islands, to a certain extent, enfilade the greater works, it may have been that they were used as batteries by the Allies. At all events, the small vessels must have got within a comparatively small distance of the forts, and have thus been enabled to rain fire and destruction upon the magazines, barracks, and store-houses of the place.

The effect of this destructive bombardment upon Russia will be more a moral than a material one. Apart from the vexation of losing in two days the fruits of so many years' toil, there is the disgrace of having the third fortress in the empire destroyed within a few miles of the capital. Revel must tremble, and Cronstadt think seriously on its liability to a similar visitation. We must also remember the effect this energetic action will have upon the Scandinavian kingdoms, and even on the courts of Germany.

The Crimea.—While we were all yesterday chafing under the absence of news from the lines of Sebastopol, and under the delay of that "hitherto unexpected" success, promised by one of the Ministerial organs, the news of a victory on the Tchernaya was travelling along the electric wire. It reached London in the afternoon, its brief and expressive words rousing the deepest feelings of men. The official telegraphic despatch says nothing as to the numbers engaged on either side, but simply states that the Russians, in great force, attacked the position on the Tchernaya, and were gallantly repulsed, after a three hours' battle, by the French and Sardinians. From Varna we have a second despatch, wearing an official character also, but not distinctly so, which names General LIPRANDI as the leader of the assailants, estimates their numbers at between 50,000 and 60,000, sets down their loss at between 4000 and 5000, mentions the capture of 400 prisoners, and states that the loss on the side of the Allies is trifling.

The position on the Tchernaya consists of the left bank of that river from Tehorgoun, where it breaks through the mountains, to the heights that rise above the valley of Inkerman. The right wing was occupied by the Sardinians, who had strengthened their position with strong earthworks. Whether they occupied the heights over Tehorgoun, and thus held a position on the left flank of the Russians, we cannot say, but it is probable, as the bridge at Tehorgoun was well-defended. Behind the Sardinians the Turks would stand in reserve on the heights above Kamara, with the cavalry, probably, on the Woronzoff-road. The French divisions were in position on the left wing, along the banks of the river covering the passage by Traktir, and touching with their right the Sardinians, with their left the ridge in the rear of the camp before Sebastopol. The enemy probably descended from the Inkerman heights, covered by the fire of his batteries, and moved down the road from

Mackenzie's Farm upon Traktir, deploying to his left, and occupying a prominent hill that looks down on the river between Tehorgoun and Traktir. The lines of the Tchernaya were very strong as the Russians have found to their cost. As an attack has been suspected for some time, the Allies have been very watchful, and thus they could not have been surprised. It was a noble field for the debut of the Sardinians, who have thus received the baptism of battle. No doubt the flag of Italy was borne bravely in the fight side by side with the tricolor of France.

But what are to be the results of this defeat? Have our commanders followed up the victory and essayed to storm the heights held by an army demoralised by defeat? Does the daring of battle augur confidence or impatience on the part of the foe? Are they proud in their accumulated numbers; or is Sebastopol so hard bested that nothing can save it but a powerful diversion? These are questions which the full despatch, which lags so far behind the rapid telegraph, alone can answer. We wait with patience.

Since we wrote the above lines the telegraph has partially answered our queries. Yesterday the fiery rain of the batteries before Sebastopol once more poured down upon its dogged defenders. The Generals are evidently determined to follow up the heavy blow of Thursday with vigour. This is the crisis of the campaign. Now Sebastopol must be ours; now the Russian army must be defeated—or not at all this year. They have given us the advantage by taking the initiative. The battle of the Tchernaya, unlike the battle of Inkerman, may, as we conceive, be followed up with prompt determination, and the enemy forced to fight for existence somewhere between Mackenzie's Farm and Bakstchi-Serai.

THE POLICY OF SUSPICION.

A CERTAIN set of men are now endeavouring to agitate the working-classes upon questions of foreign policy. Emulating the dictatorship of the Administrative Reform Association, they have organised committees to deliberate upon the Russian war, upon the state of Naples, upon the oil-and-tallow trade, and upon the Danish succession. With reference to the last-named topic, Mr. LANGFORD of Birmingham has interrogated the Earl of MALMESBURY, and the late Secretary for Foreign Affairs has been good-natured enough to reply. He states that the interference of England, which resulted in the treaty of 1853, was invited by the Danish Government itself,—that the succession remains so far unsettled that certain contingencies are not provided against, and hints at the danger of Russia inheriting Holstein. Upon this courteous epistle the Birmingham Covenanters passed a variety of insulting criticisms, Mr. COLLIER especially indulging himself in remarks on the "imbecility" of the noble earl. This point is not, in itself, worth notice. Neither is it improper that the working-classes, or any section of them, should examine and discuss the politics of Europe. They have every right to do so, and in course of time will probably arrive at just and liberal conclusions. We think, however, that we may put it to the quiet and intelligent men who represent the industrious orders far better than explosive enthusiasts and discarded understrappers of office, whether they gain by the universal dissemination of suspicion? One of the finest and most subtle remarks of ROBESPIERRE was, that suspicion is to liberty what jealousy is to love. It is the undying worm that eats away candour, generosity, and self-respect.

For no man trusts himself who distrusts all others. Losing confidence in his fellow-beings, he preserves none in human nature.

Among the speakers at St. Martin's Hall on Wednesday last was one, a philanthropist by sentiment and by profession. His encomium on an agitator who did not address the meeting was, "He can excite their suspicions." And this, in reality, is the ware in which many a demagogue deals. It is in politics what mystery is in romance; it gives scope to the imagination, and is as fascinating to a half-taught adult as a dark cellar is to a child. But is it a manly process? Is it truthful, or pure, or brave?

Sane thinkers among the working-classes should examine closely the grotesque bugbears so freely fabricated with respect to the English Cabinet and the Russian war. Only one person, among the many who daily "implore" some veiled prophet or incognito PETT to "save the nation," has specifically stated the mystery of iniquity to which the popular allusions point. The story would be too ludicrous for repetition, were it not the currency of thousands of politicians, in London and the provinces. It is affirmed, then, that in the crazy Foreign Office is contained "a certain sealed box." In that box is deposited "the agreement of Russia and England with regard to the partition of the Ottoman Empire." With this precious memorandum lie others relating to the treaty with Denmark, "dictated by the Czar at Warsaw." An anecdote, it appears, is connected with the sealed box. When Lord DERBY succeeded Lord JOHN RUSSELL as Premier, he objected to the terms of the Danish treaty, but "he was not allowed to take office except on condition of adopting measures contained in documents kept in the sealed box." Now, there were some ex-M.P.'s, some retired officers of rank, many aldermen and town-councillors, besides a muster of trading agitators, in the room in which this statement was made. We shall not, therefore, insult the understanding of every man in the empire by reasoning a little with our working-class friends upon this preternaturally preposterous fable.

Imagine Mr. DISRAELI in Downing-street, drawing into official twilight the proofs of a treasonable compact between the Whigs and Russia. Conceive him possessed of a paper reciting the terms of a plot to divide, after a due interval of fighting, the spoils of the prostrate Ottoman Empire. Is there a man who can write his own name who believes that between hostile parties, inveterate factions, unscrupulous adventurers, bitter antagonists, and really honest, English-minded men, who successively fill the Treasury, such a conspiracy could lie, dark as Phlegethon, darker than the drains of Downing-street? And yet it is a serious fact that declarations of this kind are not only made, but received with riotous applause, printed, repeated, and almost affirmed upon oath.

Extravagances of such a nature are invented by men haunted by a monomania, who have the dexterity to perceive that suspicion is welcome to a part of the working-classes. At the unreported meetings continually held in the metropolis, and in the provinces, nothing produces so much effect as a dismal hint, or a reckless accusation. A sense of mystery hovers over the speaker's face, and his audience are astonished at the turpitude of human (Ministerial) nature. For instance, the late Polish meeting was not intended as a demonstration of enthusiastic sympathy; it was a perfidious farce, got up between the Marquis of BREADALBANE and the Earl of HARRINGTON, with the prince of machinations, Lord PALMERSTON, consulting his

sealed box in the background. One Wednesday no chairman arrived, and the blackest insinuations were muttered along Drury-lane. The next Wednesday the chairman and the speakers were ready, and Sir ROBERT PEEL came, with a sardonic mimicry of enthusiasm, to broach the scheme of a Christian empire (under a Russian prince) on the Bosphorus. A blue light flickers over the story. Even if Poland were to be restored, the working-classes are warned to give no credit. Poland must then, in its turn, be suspected, for it will be "a bulwark of Russia against Europe." No clear intellect can perceive the connexion between the beginning and the end of this epic of treason; but it is the staple, not of Chartist bluster alone, but of a sickly Conservative scepticism, which deplores the honest prerogative of our ancient English royalty.

The suspicion which is aimed at the Cabinet, whether Whig, Tory, or Coalition, is directed against the middle classes also. Alderman ALLDAY, supporting the virulent exaggerations of Mr. ATTWOOD, bargains for a cheer, from "the body of the hall," as follows:—"The working men are looking into blue-books; now find me a middle-class man who is doing the same?" As if there were a middle-class man in England, if Alderman ALLDAY be not one.

But this deplorable asperity, this gall and wormwood of politics, has its moral, not for the working-classes alone. Their agitators are only suited to the temper of an ill-taught, ill-represented people. Their querulous discontent takes refuge in suspicion. Mortified by exclusion, they believe—or a small excitable section of them believe—that Government is only an agency of delusion, that the Whigs feel a personal delight in the agonies of mankind.

We must keep to our course. Upon this point we cannot flatter "the people," or approve their "friends." Time, we trust, which does justice between man and man, will do justice between class and class. We have fulfilled our duty, when we have asked help from those whose teachings teach the people in warning them against the effects of this suspicious humour. It is a hateful spectacle to see a thousand Englishmen concurring in the belief that England is, and always has been, governed by a race of political malefactors. But it becomes still more incomprehensible when pacific sympathies are united with this policy of pertinacious distrust. Is it more difficult to believe that our governing class, united by sentiment and by tradition with the governing classes of the Continent, are unwilling to aid in bringing them to ruin, than to suppose that the belligerent governments of Europe have agreed to wage a mortal and desolating war for years before they give effect to a preconceived plan of impossible treachery?

OUR MILITARY RESOURCES.

THE last words of General EVANS in the session which has just come to an end are undoubtedly worthy of that full consideration to which, as Lord PALMERSTON admitted, they are justly entitled, not only as coming from a man having in every way a right to express his opinion on the conduct of the war, but as containing intrinsic worth. It is indeed a lamentable fact that the British force in the East is inadequate to the requirements of the war; and the only excuse that can be offered for the Government is, that soldiers cannot be manufactured in a few months, nor, when they are striplings at the time of enlistment, under a few years. But admitting that we are enlisting at double the rate of any previous year; admitting that

we have done all that could be done to raise recruits, still there comes the question, are properly raised by General EVANS, are there no British troops, except those in the Crimea, seasoned and fit for the hardships of a campaign? There are such troops. Casting a soldier's glance over the globe, Sir DE LAKE sees that we have 40,000 European troops in India—10,000 of these he would spare. There are seven battalions at the Cape, and British troops scattered in Ceylon, the Mauritius, Hong-Kong, Australia, doing police duty, nearly all of whom might easily be spared, and their places filled by the irregular cavalry and the sepoy of India; and thus in three months, he calculates, there would be 20,000 men ready for the Crimea or elsewhere. To these he would add three battalions doing garrison duty in the Mediterranean, to be replaced by militia regiments; and an "Irish Brigade" composed of 5000 men, selected from the Irish police, "one of the finest corps in the world." And again he would raise much higher the Foreign Legions now in course of organisation; and he would supply them all with the best possible arms.

Now there is, as Lord PALMERSTON was confessing, when the proximate Black Rod cut short his last speech so inopportunist, much force in what is said with regard to India. "It is possible that in some stations portions of native troops might be available to replace European regiments." No doubt whatever. India is tranquil; and the deficiency of Europeans could be easily made up with natives. Certainly the troops in Australia could be dispensed with if a light infantry corps of New Zealanders were raised, as it might be, for service in that country; the irregular horse at the Cape, with the Burgher force about to be raised, would be strong enough to control the Caffres; and the native Indian army might, of course, be augmented to almost any extent. We are, therefore, of General EVANS's opinion, that 20,000 stout warriors, all of British build, and bone, and spirit, might in a few months augment our Crimean army. If there are difficulties in obtaining an Irish Brigade from the constabulary, are there any in raising a Canadian Brigade? It is the duty of a British Government, desirous of carrying on the war "with the utmost possible vigour," to use Mr. COWLEY's words, in order that we may frustrate the designs of Russia for "universal domination," to use Mr. LOWE's phrase, to develop all the resources of our great empire. Far larger is the population at our disposal than that of Russia, and animated by at least an equal spirit of loyalty and devotion to the cause. We should appeal to the slumbering national passions of all the subjects of the British Crown, and show our enemy, by making war to the death, that no one shall provoke Great Britain with impunity to leave the paths of peace for the bloody field of war.

But we have other and more formidable resources than those of men: we have science. Putting on one side the dazzling but mysterious schemes of a DUNDONALD, and even the projects of a NASMYTH, let us see what has actually been done in the way of arms. Major JOHN JACOB has recently published a pamphlet on "Rifle Practice," in which he describes some astounding results obtained by him that promise to make a revolution in the art of war. Major JACOB is the well-known commandant of the Scinde Irregular Horse. He has for years studied the capabilities of the rifle, and has set up a most elaborate practising-ground in front of the "lines" of his cavalry station. With what results? He has not only ascertained, and fixed by actual practice the best form for the rifle and the ball, working with deadly

effect at ranges of two thousand yards and upwards, but he has invented a percussion rifle-shell, which he considers the deadliest missile ever invented. One of its direct effects, he calculates, would be that a few good riflemen armed with these weapons would annihilate the best field-battery in existence. But he proposes to rifle the cannon, and is sanguine enough to look forward to the attainment of ranges of ten miles. We have no space to describe more fully the plans of Major JACOB. They are fully made out in the pamphlet to which we have referred.

What we think of far higher importance is the change of tactics implied by this development of the deadly musket. Major JACOB says truly that the change must be entire, so as to make our soldiers skilful workmen instead of pipe-clayed automatons. He calls upon our military authorities to abolish corporal punishment; to appeal to the highest and noblest faculties of man; to strive to develop instead of striving to crush the powers of soul and body in our men; and to fill the ranks of our private soldiers with the *élite* of our peasantry and yeomanry. "Train and arm the men worthy of their noble nature," he says, with much emphasis, "and 50,000 such soldiers would be a match for a world in arms." At present the native qualities of Englishmen are crushed down nearly to a level with the soldiers of the rest of Europe, but under a wiser system those qualities would shine forth as they shone in the great battles of few against many, like Cressy and Agincourt, and Inkermann in modern days. The change that impends points to great individual skill capable of the most perfect action, either alone or in combination. "With open files and ranks, each man a skilful combatant, but still all acting in perfect concert—as would be easy with such brave, trusty, intelligent, and skilful men—they would sweep their enemies from the earth, themselves almost unseen."

Major JACOB may have taken too sanguine a view of the effect of his proposed arms; but he cannot take too high a view of his proposed mode of treating the soldier. We have always contended for a higher, manlier training for our troops. Soldiers should be the greatest and best of men as well as soldiers, as the greatest and best of men have often been the best soldiers. Quality would then make up for quantity, and no chief of northern or southern hordes could, by mere weight of numbers, make a show of bullying the world.

THE LIMITED LIABILITY ACT.

We perfectly agree with those who consider the Limited Liability Bill, as it has received the Royal assent, a narrow and imperfect measure; but narrow and imperfect as it is, it is the part which contains the seed of all that such a measure, or a series of them, can produce; and what is more, it contains quite enough to bring forth enterprises which will show what can be done by the principle, and justify an extension of it in future enactments.

When the measure was first introduced, it was really embodied in two bills, one of which permits joint-stock undertakings, with a capital of not less than 20,000*l.*, and shares of not less than 25*l.*, to be carried on with a liability not exceeding the subscribed capital of each shareholder; the shareholders having a right to wind up the concern as soon as a certain proportion of the capital should be expended, and the association being compelled in its name and in instruments issued by it to set forth its "limited" character. These were the chief provisions. The other bill permitted individuals to invest their money

in private undertakings, with a liability not exceeding the amount of capital thus invested. The bill also proposed some other alterations respecting the rights of partners, or the liabilities of officers; but this was the chief provision. Taking the two jointly, the measure has received very great modification; but a few of the "amendments" will be sufficient to notice.

The subsidiary bill respecting individual partners has been deferred, partly because the effects of the measure upon existing arrangements and other statutes had not been clearly defined, explained, or understood; and partly because, so long as it is necessary to regard the principle of Limited Liability as extended only to a certain class of undertakings, there were doubts whether it would be expedient to let individuals enter into unlimited commercial associations with an individual limit of liability which the creditor might not suspect. In the one case, the character of the association would be perfectly understood. At present the Legislature was not prepared to grant the principle without a caution of express publicity; and it may be conceded, that so long as partnerships exist, some of which may be limited and others of which are unlimited by force of statute, it is desirable that the creditor should not be further confused. At no distant day, we believe, the principle of limited liability will be generally extended, and the creditor will have to shape his proceedings accordingly. We do not, therefore, regard the postponement of the subsidiary bill as a matter of much regret.

Another amendment tending to restrict the measure was introduced in the House of Lords by Earl GREY. It is a proviso that no company shall have less than twenty-five members. This is an enactment, but it is not a law. It is one of those enactments so manifestly easy to evade, without the slightest risk of penalty, that it is the same as if the number of partners remained entirely free to the choice of promoters getting up the company. For 10*l.* apiece any number of shareholders can be procured to make up the given twenty-five; and as the shares then would be worth something, there can of course be a compensation for the money thus invested in creating, say a score of pageant shareholders. Not that we regard the proviso as perfectly harmless; since it multiplies restrictions which are of no effect, and which only bring the authority of Parliament into contempt.

Another amendment renders the directors personally responsible for any dividends which they may pay should the concern not be in a solvent condition at the time of payment: a proviso which makes the office of director one of grave responsibility as well as trust.

The largest modification we owed to Lord GODERICH, and at a single blow it effected a vast extension of the measure; though it was partly counteracted in the House of Lords. He struck out the original proviso that the capital should not be less than 20,000*l.*, and the amount of each share not less than 25*l.*. Thus an undertaking like the People's Mill at Leeds, with its 17 shares and 3500 shareholders, would have come within the statute. The Lords have made the lowest amount of each share 10*l.*, which, coupled with the 25 shares, makes a minimum for capital of not less than 250*l.*. Still that is not an insurmountable difficulty, even for working men. Three or four men experienced in some retail trade, who have saved up their wages for the purpose, may put together their 100*l.* or 200*l.* apiece, and be a company of limited liability.

We have, therefore, enough of the principle to work upon. If any members of the work-

ing class desire to establish trading associations, here is the statute that enables them to do so; and in Leeds, as well as in other towns, they have the example of the profit and advantage to be derived. In some of our largest trades, which we shall not particularly specify for the moment, great capitalists have almost drawn to themselves the mass of the traffic, particularly in large towns. Men of moderate means have had no hope of competing with the weight of capital. Of one proprietor we have heard it said that he found it to his interest to admit his best men of business to the partnership for a limited period—we forget for how long, but say four or five years—the junior partner being under a bond to withdraw at the end of that period. The junior threw all his unwearied interest into the efforts to secure the prosperity of the gigantic concern, and was repaid by a fraction of its profits. The same great house of business had a constant succession of such junior partners, who were driven forth before their freshness could be worn out. Under the new act these men would probably find it more to their interest to come together, and to trade for themselves. We have heard it said that the head of that house has subsequently fallen into a melancholy condition, believing that he shall "go into the *Gazette*:" at least he is already in that *gazette* whose records are the most melancholy—bankrupt in spirits. Such is the crowning triumph of a life devoted to the accumulation of gigantic gains, although not exclusively so devoted. There had, of course, been gigantic anxieties, and the owner of that vast business would sometimes have been glad if his liabilities had been limited to his mammoth means. The measure, therefore, is sure to be worked; and we believe that the principle is so sound as to establish itself in the confidence of the whole community as soon as it is seen in working; while we are sure that many of the dangers anticipated will never occur to frighten even the most anxious of creditors.

THE PLAGUE OF RHETORIC.

NOTHING can be more just, or more worthy the attention of Administrative Reformers, than the complaint that our Statesmen are chosen by rhetoric. This test lets many bad men into the offices of State, and keeps many good men out. It would have kept out the Duke of WELLINGTON, had he been a civilian, though he was an admirable administrator. The chances are, perhaps, that it would keep out the best men of all. Rhetoric is not the gift of the deepest minds, whether speculative or practical. Such minds, like ADDISON, have not much money in their pockets, but plenty at their bankers. They cannot play on the oratoric fiddle, but they can turn a small state into a great one.

Of course a good argumentative speech, or a good statement, is a proof of ability. It shows clearness of head and command of the subject more than a written dissertation. But is this the style of speaking most popular in the House of Commons? Judging from the applause, it is not. Judging from the applause, the things most popular in the House of Commons are personalities and claptrap: the claptrap being not that of imagination (which has rather gone by), but that of prejudice. At all events, it is quite clear that a man may become the great orator of the House, and rise to the head of a party by speeches totally devoid of thought or argument, but judiciously composed of venom and flummery, with a strong preponderance of the former. People seem to forget that in such oratory as this a man who had spent his life in satire and pamphleteering must beat out and out a man who has spent his

life in attending to the business of the State.

There would be an end of this if the councils of Parliament were serious: but they are not. No questions are solved in them, no practical decisions are formed, no conviction is produced. In fact the speakers do not take the right way to produce any conviction. They never lay their minds together. Each man makes a detached speech, as it were in vacuum, exhausting his own views, or viewlessness upon the subject. An intelligent and candid auditor comes away with his mind wholly uninfluenced, and with no impression but that of having heard a series of diluted newspaper articles, sometimes reaching to the length of reviews, badly delivered and with very little reference to each other. Any amount of irrelevancy and bad logic is tolerated, provided the speech is exciting and amusing. You may bring in a motion on the question of peace and war and support it with a lampoon. Rhetorical evasion and trickery of every kind can be practised with impunity. The fallacious reasoner cannot be brought to book, as he would be immediately if he were talking with half a dozen sensible men round a table. "This lampoon is all very well, but how does it justify your motion?" "You censure us for not saying whether we mean peace or war: do you mean peace or war yourself?" These questions which would instantly be put in conversation, cannot be put—at least an answer to them cannot be extorted—in the House of Commons. The whole thing serves as a grand parade of party arguments and sentiments, and an exposition of the views of individuals to the country or to Bunham, which might just as well be made in the newspapers or in the Bunham Town Hall respectively. Notoriously the only rhetoric that really tells is that of the party leader and that of the whip. One can imagine taciturn ability, if it should ever get into Parliament, sitting for ever without adding to the tide of aimless loquacity by a maiden speech. And yet oratorical success is the only road to a Parliamentary position.

The nation, of course, is to blame much more than the members of the House of Commons. The nation likes to have its oratorical cockpit. It likes to have the speeches reported for its own amusement, which is the grand incentive to babbling. It applauds the courage of invective—as if invective required courage—and it crowns a man as a great statesman when he has proved his power of lungs by filling three or four yards in the columns of the morning papers. For this our statesmen waste in useless debate the cerebral energy which they ought to spend in maturing great measures. For this all questions are enveloped in a mist of party rhetoric through which the real thing is seldom seen. For this the faculty that acts is set aside in favour of the tongue that talks.

"MORE HONOURED IN THE BREACH."

THE hero of our tale is a gentleman of family, and of high honour, for he is a captain of militia; he is of the most interesting age in life, for he is thirty-two; and, in short, he is exactly the man to be the hero of a novel. Our hero, then, encountered at Clifton a young lady of great personal attractions, six years younger than himself, and possessing "considerable fortune." He avowed his sentiments, and sentiments were avowed in return. The correspondence, more happy but less classic than love letters which have been rendered immortal, proved to be very affectionate. The young lady received all that "JOHN" vouchsafed with an affectionate desire to make the best of it, expressed a heartfelt interest in his welfare,

and did not withhold endearing epithets. She was delighted with the first ring he gave her—his "dear ring;" she hoped that "he would be careful how he came out of hot rooms;" she called him "my dearest JOHN," "my dearest JACK," "dear old fellow;" and his handwriting was "dear." She dreamed that he had an accident, and that she was bathing in his blood; she would follow him to Corfu; she was "his ever-loving AGNES," "his own dear pet." And from time to time she sent him "lots of love and lots of kisses." It was with this kind of charming crescendo that the correspondence moved. The day for the wedding was fixed, the cards were printed, and presents were purchased and presented; when, behold! a day or two before, "JOHN" receives a letter in the veritable handwriting of his "ever-loving AGNES," beginning "Dear Sir!" This is what we commonly call "a damper," and if a man were indignant, outraged, shocked, driven to despair, we could not wonder or think ill of him for exhibiting some want of self-command. In similar cases men have proceeded to dire extremities: they have rushed into misanthropy; women have been shot or stabbed; empires have been betrayed. JOHN HOLDER was not proof against emotion, and as his chosen adviser says, "when he received this letter he was so much agonised at this statement, that he felt it necessary for his own honour to bring an action at law for damages."

No gentleman refuses to receive an explanation from a lady. No man can fail to be touched by a truth-telling account, especially when it comes from a woman who has put herself in his power. The explanation given by Miss JOSLING is one that on the face of it looks consistent. She told Mr. HOLDER that "when she accepted his offer she had only just lost her parents, and that at the time she was grateful to any one who would offer her a home, but she could not unite herself to any one whom she could not love;" and her affection for him was not sufficient to justify marriage. It was rather late to find this out, but not so much too late as it would have been after marriage. Undoubtedly collateral circumstances may contribute to qualify any statement of the kind; we may believe it or we may disbelieve it; but still it must be received. Presuming that in this case the young lady spoke quite ingenuously, we should say, that in making the explanation she did justice to the gentleman as well as to herself, and that she showed a sound feeling of honour as well as sense. If it were true, we should say that no man who had a perception of what is due to a woman when she throws herself upon his generosity, or to himself when the appeal is made, could refuse to accept such an avowal explicitly. Let us suppose that in some cases the avowal might be untrue—a pretext merely—still there are some occasions in which we are precluded from searching beyond a pretext; and when a lady makes a statement respecting herself alone, her feelings, and her wishes, any gentleman is precluded from asking more. There are favours which are not to be given unless they be almost taken before they can be yielded; but no man would wittingly snatch the kiss which was to be really refused; or, if he did make so unlucky a mistake, he would be glad to be let off with pardon, and to deserve it by the ingenuousness of his submission.

It is more than probable that there are many cases exactly like this courtship of JOHN and AGNES: that the gentleman is much "smitten," and not indifferent to a considerable fortune, or perhaps not indifferent to the attractions of the lady without a fortune; that the young lady is much pleased by being chosen, flattered by

the attentions, anxieties, and even troubles that have to be gone through in such cases; that, nevertheless, she discovers the want of a real affection before actual union, yet has not the strength of mind to say so; and then the pair become wedded. The mistake is discovered some years afterwards, more or fewer. It sometimes happens that a natural affection is engendered by the relation of the two; but we believe that quite as often it happens that an intimacy which necessarily exists, when unconsecrated by affection, has not unfrequently engendered a cold indifference, or something worse than indifference—positive dislike or actual revulsion. A union such as that is an outrage to the individuals who suffer by it, and a disgrace to the country under which it can be; but we have reason to know, from the evidence which comes forth in so many different forms, that many a JOHN and AGNES are living in that state of fettered revulsion which is worse than divorce—worse than the torture of MEZENTIVS; for if a living body is not bound to a dead one, each to the other is a corpse incapable of returning affection, and endowed only with a ghastly life to torture the feelings which it mocks.

THE INDEPENDENT STATES OF INDIA.

WERE it ever to happen that Persia should become a province, or even a tributary, of the Russian Empire, there can be no doubt that the security of our Indian possessions would be seriously compromised. For, even if we succeeded in repelling force by force, a more permanent source of danger and disturbance would spring up in our own dominions. The presence of a powerful enemy on the frontier would embolden every petty prince to "exalt his horn," and to realise the independence he now only nominally enjoys. India would be in a constant state of fermentation, and the attention of the Government would be diverted from the works now in progress for the improvement of both the people and the country, and solely directed to the preservation of internal tranquillity. And this would prove a task of no ordinary difficulty, for it is quite possible for an Indian prince to conduct an insurrection under the very eyes of the British authorities, and when surrounded on all sides by British territory. His only, or at least his principal, chance of detection lies in the treachery of his own people, who may be moved by malice or cupidity, to reveal his machinations. An instance of this occurred in the year 1839. The Nawab of Kurnool, in the Madras Presidency, had converted his fort into a complete foundry and arsenal, and prepared the nucleus of a formidable outbreak without exciting the slightest suspicion on the part of the English magistrates on his frontiers. Even after his designs were betrayed to the Government, the commissioners who were sent to examine into the matter, although readily admitted into the fort, failed to discover any proofs of guilt. The information received, however, was of too positive a nature to be thus set aside, and a regiment of native infantry, besides some companies of H.M. 59th, were accordingly marched into the fortress. On this the Nawab took the field with a thousand Pathans, but was easily defeated and himself made prisoner. A minute search being then instituted, there was discovered a large quantity of gunpowder, charcoal, saltpetre, shot, shells, and guns—some of the latter still unfinished. It was generally reported that this prince had been instigated by the Nizam's Government, but this point has not been clearly ascertained; nor is it a matter of any moment further than as an illustration of the very slight confidence that is to be placed even in those states that are all but subject to our control. And it is impossible to over-estimate the consequences that might ensue from a partial success at the commencement. When Moolraj, the Dewan of Mooltan, first entered upon hostilities his whole force did not exceed 4000 men, and these mostly adventurers from other districts. It was not long, however, before he was joined by large numbers of turbulent spirits, many of whom had formerly served under the Ameers of Scinde; for Asiatics generally are fond of warlike enterprise. The prospect of plunder and commotion never fails to draw a reckless

band round any standard that promises bold adventure. And it should always be borne in mind that the natives of India have no faith in the stability and permanence of the British rule. That vast empire has been so frequently overthrown by conquering armies, and has so frequently changed masters, that it has become a matter of analogy and conviction that not any power will long maintain its ascendancy. They do not disguise their hope and belief that the hour is approaching when the English shall be supplanted by another race of Europeans, though they do not pause to consider—nor do they care to divine—by what denomination their future masters may be now known upon earth. Their utter ignorance of the relative importance of European states was shown in the intrigues of the Rajah of Sattara in 1839. That imbecile prince was led to expect the co-operation of a powerful armament from Portugal, and was induced to purchase a merchant ship for the professed purpose of conducting the preliminary negotiations with greater secrecy and despatch. Nor did it appear to him at all extraordinary that this vessel should be employed in trading with China instead of proceeding direct to Europe. Geography, however, is an occult science to most Asiatics, and the Rajah was probably quite ignorant of the exact position of any one country under the sun. There is little doubt that he was the victim of the European and Eurasian adventurers who infested his court, and are the bane of every native ruler. They are generally men of ill-directed energy, bankrupt in character as in fortune, moved by the temptation of the moment, and wholly unrestrained by any sort of principle. Like the foul slimy things that batten on corruption, they earn their disgraceful subsistence by pandering to the brutal passions of their patrons, and by playing upon their credulity and ignorance. Very often they are persons who have been cashiered from the British army, or who have otherwise degraded themselves by acts of moral, perhaps of legal turpitude. Many of these wretched beings have sprung from the impure loves of European gentlemen with native women, and thus become the instruments of the Nemesis that causes man's guilt to be its own avenger. The Rajah of Sattara had the misfortune to fall into the hands of these knaves and parasites, and no effort availed to rescue him from their fatal influence. Their intrigues at length achieved his deposition, and his territories were once more annexed to the British possessions, from which they had been injudiciously separated by the Marquis of Hastings.

A very large proportion of the disorders that are constantly recurring in native states may be traced to disputes about the succession to the chief power. According to Mahomedan usage, if the son be a minor, the uncle ascends the throne; but this question is frequently submitted to the arbitration of the sword. Whenever the British Government has interfered in such matters, its influence has been exerted in favour of the lineal descendant, notwithstanding native prejudices and the evils incidental to a minority. It is true that such policy most surely brings about the absorption of the state whose prince is a child, but we acquit our rulers of any such Machiavellian intentions. We believe that they act honestly, though unadvisedly, for calculation and foresight have seldom distinguished the Governors-General of India. And we admit the difficulty they experience in laying down any rule or system that requires a length of time for its development, owing to the brief tenure of power held by each individual. At first, ignorant of the country and people he is suddenly called upon to govern, the new Governor is compelled to draw his inspirations at second hand from the small knot of officials with whom he is in immediate communication, until he is able to acquire some knowledge of the circumstances by which he is surrounded. Even then he is seldom competent to judge of the real merits of the case, because the native character is an entangled web that few ever succeed in unravelling. In most instances the governors are anxious to illustrate their rule by some striking event, and it must be acknowledged that they have erected many monuments of their own premeditation and ignorance. Probably Lord Dalhousie has made fewer mistakes than any one of his predecessors; and in refusing to acknowledge adopted children as heirs of native princes, he has rendered the entire subjection of India a moral certainty to be determined within a given period. It may, perhaps, be worth while to remind the

mere English reader that these adopted children are usually of very low birth, and frequently the offspring of the illicit amours of the women of the royal Zenana. Haremzadeh, or son of the harem, is a common term of reproach in the East, and yet these are the persons advanced to the throne by the successful intrigues of some favoured concubine. Thus, even his Royal Highness Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, to whom the *Morning Post* loveth to accord a place of high honour in the records of fashionable intelligence, is well known to be the son of a Nautch girl and a water-carrier. And equally obscure is the parentage of the present Maharajah of Gwalior, whom Lord Ellenborough unwisely recognised as the lawful successor to Sindhia, though at that time only eight years of age, and adopted by a widow of only thirteen. Nothing could have been more just and expedient than the annexation of Gwalior at the death of the late ruler, but his Lordship feared that an outcry would be made in England similar to that which arose on the conquest of Scinde. And thus, in the words of Mr. Campbell, "too great eagerness in seizing the unripe crab-apple of Scinde, deprived the Government of the ripe pear of Gwalior."

With the unfulfilled expectation of acquiring a character for magnanimity and liberality, our Indian magnates have squandered enormous sums of money by way of pensions to the princes whom our arms have vanquished in the strife they themselves originated. Shorn of power, but possessed of immense wealth, these "royal personages" naturally plunge into riotous excesses and the lowest depths of debauchery. Wherever one of these ex-Rajahs, or Nawabs, fixes his residence, a host of parasites and obscure villains attach themselves to his person and assist in the gratification of his impure desires. The Nawab of the Carnatic, for instance, receives 116,000*l.* a year from the British Government, but which proves inadequate to his dissolute extravagance. To the Rajah of Tanjore we pay 118,000*l.* per annum, to the Nawab of Bengal 160,000*l.*, and to the descendants of Hyder Ali about 64,000*l.*, and formerly a still larger income which enabled the sons of Tipoo Sultan to effect the famous mutiny at Vellore. To the King of Delhi, the miserable representation of the "Great Moguls," we allow an annual stipend of 150,000*l.*, together with absolute jurisdiction within the walls of his fortified palace. In this oriental Alsatia there live and sin at least 12,000 human beings, parasites of parasites, of many grades in the social scale, but forming an unbroken chain from Majesty to a Mehter, all equal, however, in vicious propensity, and differing only in the power of gratification. The most frightful crimes, even now, are perpetrated within the gloomy pile. Murder, mutilation, adultery, rape, infanticide, fraud, theft, and other deeds humanity shudders to contemplate, and which Christianity in its humblest form utterly ignores, are there matters of daily occurrence, and pass with impunity as far as our magistrates are concerned; and the puppet king, in his hall of Eblis, administers injustice according to his most royal caprice. A criminal fleeing to this den of iniquity is readily admitted and screened from detection. The same thing, indeed, is done in every independent state, and thus the police are thwarted in the discharge of their duty, and guilt remains unpunished. The total amount annually squandered in the form of pensions falls very little short of one million and a half, nearly the whole of which is frittered away in squalid pageantry and low animal gratification.

But the consequences are far more terrible when the prince possesses the power as well as the vices of a despot. It little matters what instance we first select. It might be expected, however, that Goolab Singh, who is on such excellent terms of amity with the administrators of the Punjab, would endeavour to prove himself worthy of their protection and good-will by some slight show of moderation and liberality. A more ruthless tyrant does not exist. During the first Sikh campaign, Goolab Singh, the chief of Jummoo, held aloof until after the battle of Ferozeshah, when he offered his services as a mediator. As an acknowledgment of his good offices, he obtained the absolute sovereignty of Cashmere, on the payment of half a million sterling towards defraying the expenses of the war. In other words, we sold 750,000 men, women, and children to a licentious despot for thirteen shillings and fourpence a head all round. A recent traveller in that unhappy country affirms that the revenue is never less than two-thirds of

the entire produce, and not unfrequently three-fourths. There is scarcely a single production, natural or artificial, which is not taxed. A great portion of Cashmere is consequently uncultivated, and "in the western parts of the valley the exactions have reached such a pitch that there is scarcely a village in those Pergunnahs in which many houses are not to be seen deserted and in ruins, the owners having, with kith and kin, escaped into the Hazara hills by devious and unfrequented paths." The shawl manufacture, for which Cashmere has so long been celebrated, has greatly declined since labour became compulsory, and the overworked artisans toil on without heart and without hope. No Cashmeree can leave the country without the special permission of the sovereign, and even British officers are compelled to give security for the return of the porters employed to carry their luggage across the borders. In many seasons the crop of apples is entirely confiscated, to enable the Maharajah to send an acceptable present to his friends, and particularly to influential English officers at Lahore.

"The chief grievances of the people," writes the traveller to whom we have already alluded, "are over-assessment; begarree labour; the confiscation of all religious grants; the interference of the Government with all retail traders, who are prohibited from dealing without permission; taxation on all articles of industry to an unprecedented extent, the shawl paying six annas in the rupee (three-eighths) on its value; every silversmith contributing a quarter of his monthly income; and even the little skills which ply on the Dal in search of the *Singhara* being assessed. These, and the prohibition against leaving the country except with a *perwannah*, or passport, signed by one of the Cashmere officials—an order especially applying to shawl-weavers, the most persecuted of all workmen—are the grievances complained of, and complained of justly, whose effect is that the people are in an unprecedented state of misery, and, as far as respects the poorer population, live literally from hand to mouth. Were it not for the bounty of Nature in producing so many fruit-trees and vegetables growing wild in the woods and valleys, the end would be starvation or flight. . . . Goolab Singh is a true miser, and would, I verily believe, sell his own soul for a due payment. Though able and intelligent, he sees not that his unbounded avarice, the keystone to his character, produces a hateful tyranny—a tyranny so bad and so abhorred, albeit with bated breath, that his name will assuredly descend to the third and the fourth generation, and as people talk of Noushirwan the Wise and Akbar the Clement, so will they tell of Goolab Singh the Tyrannical Miser." Now pass we on to Nepal.

(To be concluded in our next.)

MR. BOWYER AND OUR POPULARITY IN ITALY.

(From a Correspondent.)

WE are unpopular in Italy, and so is the war, hence the formation of our Italian legion will meet with great opposition, not only from the Republican, or Mazzinian party, but also from the staunchest constitutionalists, and from every other ramification of Italian patriotism. We have at hand a number of Italian newspapers all addressing public opinion, and urging men not to accept service under English officers. The *Italia e Popolo* says:—"It would be an eternal disgrace if we, like the soldiers of fortune in the middle ages, were to sell ourselves to foreigners, while five-sixths of Italy are oppressed by Austrians upheld by those very foreigners." The *Specola delle Alpi* adds:—"It is enough that we see the Piedmontese army sacrificed in a war without results; shall we quietly behold still greater losses which will deprive Italy of her bravest sons? Keep your gold, and let us preserve the lives of our warriors till the moment has arrived when Italy will need their services." While the *Unione* says:—"England, in choosing an Italian legion, is guided by no feeling of sympathy, she simply wishes to obtain the best soldiers in the shortest time. It would therefore be vain to expect any benefit to arise to Italy by entering the English service; Italian soldiers would fight in a foreign cause, under a foreign flag, be paid with foreign gold, and thus in

every respect be mere mercenaries." We might add other quotations, but these are sufficient for our purpose. When Italians read Mr. Bowyer's defence of the Pope, they will be amazed to find that in the land of Protestantism and liberty Papal absolutism has found a warm partisan and advocate, who, professing to be thoroughly acquainted with the Roman States, maintains that he speaks the language of truth, when he states that the Pope is the most popular of all the Italian rulers. This ill-timed advocacy will neither increase our popularity in Italy nor facilitate the formation of an Italian legion. Lord Palmerston, it is true, has endeavoured to heal the wound, but Italians wish for deeds, not words.

Now, for the sake of humanity, we should be pleased if the well-informed Mr. Bowyer could deny those facts which are of daily occurrence in Italy, but unfortunately they are too authentic to be thus contradicted. The Roman correspondent of the *Independence Belge* relates that the French Minister at Rome lately insisted, in the name of his Government, that the present horrible condition of the Roman administration should be changed, that the Government should be secularised, and that the penal laws, the most barbarous in Europe, should be mitigated. The cardinals assembled, the question was discussed, and a formal refusal given to the French representative. A few days after this, we read in an Italian paper that the Cardinal Antonelli, following the example of the "Bastonnade Commission" instituted by the Pope's brother in the Immaculate Conception, the King of Naples, has revived a similar torture called the cavalletto. This may, perhaps, be regarded as a sort of emulation among the Italian Governments for the purpose of promoting civilisation and humanity among their people. The *Piemonte*, a Turin paper, informs us, on the authority of the *Gazzetta di Bologna* (a newspaper printed under Papal censure in Rome), that from 1850 to 1855 Austria executed for political offences in Bologna alone 204 persons, sent 324 to the galleys, and condemned 120 others to hard labour (*travaux forcés*), to say nothing of those who were imprisoned, fined, bastinadoed. The crime of many of these sufferers was that they had "abstained from smoking," by which the Papal Government lost a portion of the enormous revenue arising from the sale of tobacco and cigars.

Another proof of the social disorder to which the corrupt influences of Papal misrule has reduced the people of Italy, may be found in the official statistics of crime during the first six months of the present year. No fewer than 4133 sentences were pronounced on various criminals, among whom were 608 assassins, 25 parricides, and 12 uxoriocides. This, in a population of 2,900,000, makes 142 delinquents (including 21 assassins and one parricide) in every 100,000 inhabitants. If we inquire what the Government does to educate the people, and lessen this frightful immorality, we find that while instruction is prohibited, there is a resolute determination to corrupt the good, to make the masses still more depraved, to raise the worst men to the highest employments, and to countenance every enormity committed by the clergy, who, being above the law, can act with impunity. Yet Mr. Bowyer wishes to convince Protestants that the "Pope is popular in Italy."

FATAL SHIPWRECK.—Intelligence has been received of the loss of the American ship *Manchester* near Cape Horn. The survivors reached an island, where they were subsequently attacked by the Indians, who stripped them of their clothes, and afterwards murdered the captain and some others. The rest, having nothing to excite the cupidity of the Indians, were treated kindly by them. Only two ultimately survived, and were taken off by the *Meteoro* man-of-war.

POISONING IN SOMERSETSHIRE.—Mrs. Emma Candy, a farmer's wife, has died at Midsomer Norton from the effects of arsenic. The circumstances are as yet involved in obscurity. The inquest stands adjourned till Monday next.

Open Council.

(IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS IN ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.)

ITALY FOR THE ITALIANS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Your article on the Italian crisis contains in a few words the whole point of the Italian question: "Will it be better to keep the nation prostrate and in agonies until a Republic can be evolved from chaos, than to place between Southern Italy and Austria the broad barrier of a constitutional state rapidly developing after the example of England?"

From personal investigation not very limited, I am led to think that this question is already answered in the minds of most Italians in the sense pointed at in your article. I have myself put it in nearly the same form within the last few months to numbers of Italians who were identified with the revolution of 1848—Lombards, Romans, Tuscans, and Piedmontese—and I find among them a tolerable unanimity of opinion. Believing that Italian Independence can only be attained by the "amalgamation of the race under one government," desiring the Republic as they desire the Millennium, I think comparatively few will be found who retain the belief that the Republic is at present possible as the Government under which Italy can be united. The rulers of Southern Italy are doing their best to ensure a revolution. Neglecting the advice given by the Marquis d'Azeglio, in his "Programme of the National Party in Italy," that "if the Italian Princes wished to prevent their subjects from becoming revolutionists, they must themselves become liberals," they are doing more than all the patriots to precipitate the coming struggle. In anticipation of this, our only dread is lest the people be led to rise before they have attained the one desideratum of Italian affairs—unity. Italian unity of hate to the *Tedeschi* needs no comment here, nor do the feelings of the nation with regard to French occupation at Rome lead us to think that the spirit has died out from among them which prompted Zambecari's refusal of French aid to expel the Austrians from Ancona, adding that "he could see no difference between the Austrians and the French, except the impudence of the latter." But is it yet clear under what name Italians, who look with equal dislike on the Austrian yoke, French impudence, Papal imbecility, and the Neapolitan *Sbirri* are willing to rank themselves? It has long been the fashion in England to classify every species of Italian liberal under the generic term Mazzinian. M. Mazzini stands before England, rightly or wrongly, as the representative of Italian liberalism; and his creed is generally supposed to be "a Republic, a Republic only, at any price." Would it not be desirable to gain some more definite information as to what M. Mazzini's views really are? Is it not due alike to himself and to the Italian cause that his position should be better defined, and that we should know for what ideas his name really stands? It will then be possible to ascertain whether all Italians wishing to aid in gaining "Italy for the Italians" are willing to rank themselves under this generic term Mazzinian, *alias* Red Republican.

And having stated his own views, will not M. Mazzini do well to compare them with the views of the majority of the champions of a united Italy? One the leaders must be in heart and purpose, or they can never be one in outward action, and to make their unity available, they must thoroughly understand what are the present wishes of the people, what are the objects for which they are willing to risk another revolution. Are they determined to have a Republic, and to strike for it forthwith? Will they accept no stepping-stone between their present degradation and the climax of their desires?

These questions have a practical value in the present case. It is earnestly to be desired that Italians should calmly ascertain whether they have a rallying point, whether they can unite, before they risk again Italy's best blood in a vague struggle after an undefined object. Surely with the sad tale of Spezzia and other such tragedies fresh in memory, no one could incite the Italians to rise at any call that does not ensure the co-operation of all their countrymen holding liberal principles. Are not the affairs of '48, proving as they do that Italians not only deserve freedom but are capable of themselves to obtain it, proof also, by the disunion that prevented their retaining their liberty, that discords will not settle themselves in action after the conflict is begun?

Let Italians unite; and if the fourteen thousand defenders of Rome were able to withstand for more than two months ninety-one thousand Austrian, French, and Neapolitan troops, a united Italy need not fear all the despots in Europe.

We can scarcely exaggerate the influence which the English press may exert on the coming struggle; and it seems to me a matter of the deepest importance that all that is written on the subject should be

based on a correct knowledge of the wishes and feelings of the Italian people. A great step towards the solving of this problem would be gained could we ascertain the answer of Italian liberals in general to the question quoted above from your article.

A BELIEVER IN "ITALY FOR THE ITALIANS."

DE QUIBUSDAM REBUS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—The want of novelty was a grievance when a Solomon was a royal personage, and not necessarily a dealer in "old clo's." My business, however, with his Hebraic Majesty extends no further than to the most popular remark attributed to his pen. Some would-be economists plume themselves on having discovered a new subject for taxation in our domestic servants, and must, therefore, be ignorant of the fact that such a tax was introduced in April, 1893, and remained in force until the accession of Queen Anne. Hear what Dr. Doran says on this head:—

"The most seriously cruel portion of this law was that which affected a class of persons who could ill afford to be so smitten as this enactment thus smote them. Not only was every person who did not receive alms compelled to pay one penny per week, but one farthing per week in the pound was levied on all servants receiving wages amounting to 4*l.* per annum. 'Those,' says Smollett, 'who received from 8*l.* to 16*l.*, paid one halfpenny in the pound per week.' The hard-working recipients of these modest earnings, therefore, paid a very serious contribution in order that the war with France might be carried on with vigour."

It would seem, however, that the "Jeanes" of those days was a more belligerent individual than the gorgeous gentlemen with swelling calves who now inhabit Belgravia. Though it is possible, indeed, that even these might show some spirit if their own pleasures were in jeopardy.

"On the 3rd of May, 1736, great numbers of footmen assembled, with weapons, in a tumultuous manner, broke open the doors of Drury-lane Theatre, and, fighting their way to the stage-doors, which they forced open, they prevented the *Riot Act* being read by Colonel De Veal, who, nevertheless, arrested some of the ringleaders, and committed them to Newgate. In this tumult, founded on an imaginary grievance that the footmen had been illegally excluded from the gallery, to which they claimed to go gratis, many persons were severely wounded, and the terrified audience hastily separated, the prince and princess (of Wales), with a large number of persons of distinction, retiring when the tumult was at its highest. The Princess of Wales had never witnessed a popular tumult before, and though this was ridiculous in character, it was serious enough of aspect to disgust her with that part of 'the majesty of the people' which was covered with plush."

Here is another curious parallel. During the King's absence in Hanover, in 1736, the Queen-Regent became exceedingly unpopular in consequence of an Act of Parliament which prohibited the sale of gin in unlicensed places:—

"The popular fury was sometimes so excited that it was found necessary, as in the Michaelmas of this year, to double the guards who had the care of her Majesty at Kensington. The populace had determined upon being drunk when, where, and how they liked. The Government had resolved that they should not get drunk upon gin at any but licensed places; and thereupon the majesty of the people became so furious that even the person of Caroline was hardly considered safe in her own palace."

It is a pity that my Lord Robert Grosvenor did not bethink him of this precedent. He might then have hesitated to interfere with the recreations of that ill-tamed monster, the British populace.

Yours, &c., &c., Q.

MUHAMMAD II.—The name of the "Conqueror" with which the Turkish history distinguishes Muhammad II. from all other sultans, is due to him, not only as the conqueror of Constantinople, but also as the augmenter of his empire in every direction. He subjected two empires, fourteen kingdoms, and two hundred cities. Many stories have been told of his barbarity, but history does not require any myths, in order to form an impartial verdict, about his inhumanity and lasciviousness, his magnanimity and patriotism, about his crimes and his great qualities. His thirst for blood is shown by the fratricide with which he commenced his reign; by the deaths of the Greek imperial family of Trebizond; of the King of Bosnia, and of the Princes of Lesbos and Athens. Muhammad, however, was not only a conqueror but also the populizer of towns; not only a destroyer of churches and monasteries, but also the founder of mosques and schools, of hospitals and charities; not only the destroyer of Greek cultivation and art, but the promoter of Turkish science and learning; for he had received a scientific as well as martial education. After the conquest of Constantinople, eight of the principal churches were converted into mosques, and eventually Muhammad built four more. Of all these twelve mosques the most conspicuous is the one called after the name of the conqueror, with the exception of St. Sophia.—*Turkey.* By Sir George Larpent.

Literature.

Chilias are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Birmingham Review*.

Man's incessant ambition is to be a Prometheus, and for the most part he succeeds only in being a Frankenstein; to create seems a necessity of his nature, and having created some monster, he flies from it in terror. This creative activity has peopled (and desolated) the world with Gods and Devils, Kobolds and Witches, Fairies and Imps; but of them it is not our present cue to speak, we have minor offspring of the creative faculty to deal with in the shape of the Entities named Maladies. Who does not talk of the Gout flying to his stomach as if the Gout were a winged spirit, or of Fever attacking JONES, as if Fever were as distinctively real a "party" as JONES himself: one who not only attacks, but must in turn "be attacked" by the skilful Medicus? JONES then becomes the imaginary theatre of a terrific combat—Fever versus Medicus—with the prospect of a coffin, and the certainty of a long bill!

It will be said, perhaps, these are but figures of speech. But nothing is more dangerous in science than a figure of speech, owing to the tendency of man to realise abstractions, and to believe in the reality of his own figments. Figures of speech are still to many, and were once to all, expressions which indicate profound belief in the entities named. The slow results of Science are gathered into the one simple formula that every organ has its function, and every disease is a disturbance of one or more functions; but this formula would have been utterly incomprehensible in the early stages of our history, when every malady was regarded as the anger of a Deity—when the arrows of the plague came from the clanging bow of the offended Apollo—just as in our own nineteenth enlightened century the Magi of our Church have ascribed the cholera to the anger of Heaven, and the potato blight to the Maynooth giant. Medicine, indeed, spoke from a tripod; the first physicians were the priests, who acted as mediators between the offended gods and the stricken patients. *Nous avons changé tout cela*. To priests we leave the cure of souls; the cure of bodies is undertaken by Colleges of Physicians and patent-medicine manufacturers. Why? Because the dim perception of some relation between organ and function early arrested attention, and no sooner was attention so arrested than the offended deity faded from the field of vision. One of the most interesting chapters in the history of Science is that which traces the gradual secularisation of the study of medicine; and we close this somewhat long preamble by directing the reader's attention to an admirable sketch of that history given in a recent number of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, in an article on the "Life and Writings of Hippocrates," in which the writer, availing himself of the recent publications of LITTRÉ and DAREMBERG, presents an amusing as well as a philosophic view of the state of medical knowledge in the days of HIPPOCRATES. Curious it is from our modern standing-point to see HIPPOCRATES grieving that "the ancients" had already exhausted all that was grand and beautiful in scientific discovery, leaving nothing for him and his contemporaries but such small gleanings as the stable of the times might afford! The old story! No age is ideal to itself. And yet there is this difference to be noted between the present and the past, namely, that we of the present having such unmistakable evidence of Progress, are prone to mingle with our retrospective admiration a prospective enthusiasm, which to the men of the past would have seemed unjustifiable. We are no more satisfied with To-day than Yesterday was satisfied with itself; but we To-day, while looking back on the Yesterday, also look forward to the Morrow.

In this article, from which we keep wandering, there is, among other piquant matters, a passage on the Food of the Ancients, which we must borrow for the reader's amusement and astonishment. The common notion is that the ancients were much simpler in their dishes than we are—perhaps so, at least in earlier days—but, as we learn here, their viands were more various; for, besides the domestic animals and the game eaten by us, they ate many animals we never think of touching, except in the last extremity. They did not disdain the hedgehog, the donkey, the cat, the dog, nor that horned which, as our school-geography used to tell us, "is publicly sold in the markets of Norway," and which ISIDORE GEOFFROY SAINT-HILAIRE has recently declared to be eminently nutritious; nay, what is more, they considered dogflesh to be equal in nutritive value to chicken, and placed the donkey on a par with the ox. Pork they considered the most indigestible of all, and fit only for artisans and athletes. It would be difficult to persuade John Bull to dine off a sirloin of donkey, or to ask the waiter to bring him "ribs of dog with fried toadstools," so strong is prejudice: we eat oysters, and a few other molluscs, and shudder at the mention of snails. We eat mushrooms and truffles with gusto, and believe all other fungi to be poisonous. Nor can Famine itself displace our fears. Had the Greeks better digestions, or were their dogs and donkeys more succulent than ours?

In the same *Revue* there is an article on the English School of Art in the *Grande Exposition*, written by GUSTAVE PLANCHE, and containing a series of judgments on our painters which will interest English readers, even where most violently in contradiction with English opinions. The tone is magisterially arrogant, as usual with GUSTAVE PLANCHE, but some of the criticism

is clear-sighted enough. A review of JEAN REYNAUD's attempt to reconcile Philosophy and Religion (in his recent work *Terre et Ciel*) will interest speculative readers, who may also be referred to the article on "La Philosophie Spiritualiste" in the *Revue Contemporaine*: not that we commend this latter article for its opinions, or for any substantive value it possesses, but it serves to show some of the currents of thought in France at this moment.

While touching thus allusively on speculative philosophy, we may notice, for the benefit of certain readers, the appearance of HERBERT SPENCER's *Principles of Psychology*, which now lies on our table, and of which, in due course, we will speak more precisely; but many will not need to await our notice, and for them it is enough to mention the publication.

Some weeks ago we alluded to an announcement of a Russian Review under the auspices of the distinguished exile ALEXANDRE HERZEN. The first number will appear next week, and the spirit of the Review may be judged by the announcement of letters from VICTOR HUGO, MAZZINI, MICHELET, and PROUDHON. M. LOUIS BLANC has, we hear, promised an article for the second number, and M. HERZEN has received from Russia a collection of unpublished poems of POUCHKINE and LERMONTOFF, which until now, thanks to the Russian censorship, have never seen the light of day. This Review will possess an interest of curiosity only for English readers, as it is printed in Russian exclusively: but the existence of such a propaganda marks out the latent perils of Russian "stability." What if Russia herself, and not France, should be the herald of the next revolution in Europe?

THE NOVELS OF M. HENDRIK CONSCIENCE.

The Curse of the Village, and *The Happiness of being Rich*. Two Tales.

Lambert and Co.
Veve; or, *The War of the Peasants*.
Lambert and Co.
The Lion of Flanders; or, *The Battle of the Golden Spire*. An Historical Romance.
Lambert and Co.

FROM one of the prefatory puffs attached to these translations we gather two important facts. First, that the revival of Flemish literature took place in the year 1830; and secondly, that M. Hendrik Conscience is the chief among the writers by whom this amazingly recent revival has been brought about. These two facts explain the otherwise unaccountable notoriety, in the way of foreign translations, which the books placed at the head of this notice have obtained. A national literature which is only a quarter of a century old is a curiosity in Europe, and the chief man connected with the literature is necessarily, in virtue of his position, a curiosity also. He is the Infant Phenomenon of the world of books, and he gets notice accordingly in all sorts of right-seeing quarters.

Apart from the exceptional circumstances which surround him, M. Conscience cannot, as it appears to us, lay claim to any special attentions from the reading public. He has a new literary stage and new literary scenery at his disposal; and if he could add to these new actors and actresses, dressed entirely in a costume of his own devising, and speaking sentiments of his own inventing, he might, as times go, really and truly start a new school. This, however, is exactly what he cannot do. He is not an original writer. Flemish names, customs, and costumes are plentiful enough in his novels; but there is no such thing as an original character, or a new thought in any one of the three books which we have read for the purpose of writing this notice.

M. Conscience is most successful in his short stories. We have already, if our recollection serves us rightly, helped to draw attention to some of these as presented in a lately-published translation. They are prettily and simply written, and they afford the reader pleasant glimpses here and there at quaint local customs. They are happily too short to allow the author's want of executive dramatic power (for he has dramatic feeling) in the development of story and characters, to be sensibly felt. Without any positive novelty of idea at the bottom of any one of them, they are still very agreeable reading—partly because they do not claim attention for too long a time, and partly because they do not require the writer to rise to heights which he is not strong enough to scale successfully.

Thus, the pleasantest of the books now before us is the first on our list; for the stories, though tediously minute here and there, are of the moderate length, to which, in our opinion, M. Conscience should always restrict himself. *The Curse of the Village* is the grog-shop, and the story is written on the temperance side, with the usual temperance arguments. The second tale and the best, *The Happiness of Being Rich*, points quaintly and amusingly enough the old grovelling moral that people should be always content with such things as they have. With every disposition to see the best side of these stories, it is impossible not to be struck by the want of life-like individuality which the characters in them exhibit. What Scott did with the poor people of Scotland—what Dickens does with the poor people of London—is what M. Conscience cannot do with the poor people of Flanders. Perhaps it is hard to try the chief of the new Flemish school of novel writing by the high standard of the chiefs of the old English school. Let us go a little lower, and measure him by the height of Miss Edgeworth or Miss Austen. Even then, comparing what he has brought out of the people about him with what they brought out of the people about them, he comes before us sadly empty-handed. Testing him again by the French standard, he still loses. Balzac can see in one little provincial town of France more than M. Conscience can see, judging by what we have as yet read of his writings, in all Flanders. Is the Flemish popular character to blame for this? Is there no genuine nationality in the nation? With the higher classes it may be so; but surely striking individualities must still exist among the lower. Down among the people there must be positive characteristics to be found in Flanders as elsewhere, if the searcher only knows how to pick them up. The High Town of Brussels is a bad imitation of Paris; but all that is left of the Low Town is still distinctive and original.

The two long stories, *Veva*, and *The Lion of Flanders*, are intended to illustrate two widely separated periods of Flemish history, in which the people revolted against the domination of the French. *Veva* describes the war of the peasants against the Republic of '92, and *The Lion of Flanders* the war of the townsmen in the thirteenth century against Philip the Fair. Both novels contain abundant evidences of careful workmanship, but both—not to go too deeply into particulars when we are obliged to find fault—have the fatal defect of dullness. Any English reader taking up either of them, would be able, we strongly suspect, to put it down exactly at the time when he had previously resolved to abandon books, and take to some other occupation. Whatever M. Conscience may do among his own public, we doubt if he will keep any lady sitting up too late, or make any gentleman unpunctual at dinner-time, among our public. His want of faculty as a painter of character is the principal cause of his tediousness; out of the dry bones of the Past, he cannot put together living figures. Although defective in general construction, many of his scenes are well imagined and powerfully written; but the people who move through them cannot fasten on the reader's sympathies, or even, by their recorded actions, keep him in a state of suspended interest. *Veva*, being nearest to modern times, is the least tedious of the two books. But the author's Conservative prejudices lead him into the old injustice of exhibiting in his Republicans the violent results of the French Revolution, without also, in common fairness, exhibiting in his Royalists, the causes which led to it. People unacquainted with French history could draw no other inference after reading *Veva*, than that the Kings, Aristocracy, and Priesthood of France, before the year 1790, were all undeservedly distrusted and unreasonably resisted by a populace in a state of diabolical frenzy about nothing at all!

On the whole, the result of our perusal of the works of M. Conscience is, that he must be content to stand with the second rank of writers if he aspires to take his place as a contributor to the contemporary literature of Europe. Judged by the Flemish standard, he stands out prominently—but judged by the European standard, his position alters; it then becomes clear enough that he is in no respect one of the great writers of fiction in our time.

ADVENTURES IN THE PROVINCE OF ASSAM.

Travels and Adventures in the Province of Assam. By Major John Butler, 55th Regt. B.N.I. Smith, Elder, and Co.

It is not merely in regular campaigns and pitched battles that the officers of the Indian Army acquire their knowledge of the military art, for it frequently happens that their most active service takes place in times of comparative peace and tranquillity. The detached duties they are then called upon to perform inspire them with a just confidence in themselves, with fertility of expedient, and a wholesome fearlessness of responsibility. On the extreme frontiers of our Indian possessions they are constantly engaged in repressing the forays and internal feuds of neighbouring tribes, in inflicting chastisement for some audacious violation of the British territory, in surveying and mapping out wild and unknown districts, or in making roads and opening a regular trading communication with remote peoples. In these expeditions both men and officers are compelled to endure great fatigue, and are exposed to many perils from climate, wild beasts, and semi-barbarians. At times they encounter terrific storms, of the violence of which it is impossible in more favoured regions to conceive an adequate idea, or they enter upon inhospitable tracts, the peculiar haunts of tigers and wild elephants. At other times they have to force their way through hitherto impervious jungles, or to toil up the steep ascent of some mountain range seldom trodden by the foot of man. We then behold the gallant little band cheerfully plunging into the chill waters of a winter torrent, rushing impetuously over rolling stones and boulders sharp and slippery as glass. Escaping from this we watch them as they slowly wind along the edge of frightful precipices, or prepare their encampment for the night, cutting down bamboos, erecting huts, roofing them with grass, and providing against surprise by beasts of prey or the more treacherous savage. Such scenes as these are graphically described in Major Butler's reminiscences of travel and adventure, combined with much useful information regarding the habits and customs of the various clans occupying the highlands of Assam. But while we award due praise to the enterprise and endurance manifested in these adventures, we loudly protest, in the name of our common humanity, against the policy pursued by the Indian Government towards weak and insignificant tribes. In Europe we reprobate all interference with the internal affairs of other States, whilst in the East we compromise the dignity of a great nation by taking part in every squabble that occurs between robber chiefs lying along our frontier. After ten military expeditions against the hill tribes of Assam, with very doubtful success, but with a positive expenditure of men and money, it was wisely determined to withdraw all the troops from the hills to Dheemahpoor, and to "abstain entirely and unreservedly from all concern or meddling with the feuds" of these savage tribes. Even presuming the necessity of any one of these expeditions, it would surely have been more rational—if it be not absurd to expect such a vulgar attribute as common sense in men placed in high authority—to have despatched European soldiers on a duty for which they are physically better calculated than the lowland Sipahs, so impatient of cold. The sufferings of the native troops appear to have been cruelly intense, and if they partially succeeded in discomfiting the enemy, it was only through the superiority of fire-arms over stones and spears. The whole system of warfare was disgraceful in the extreme, entire villages being burned to the ground, to inspire the barbarians with a taste and respect for civilisation. Nor can we bestow much commendation on Major Butler's symbol of peace and brotherly love. His invariable emblem of fraternisation is a bottle of brandy. It must be admitted, there appears to have been no instance of its having failed to conciliate good will. Until very recently it used to be a favourite jibe with the natives of India that if the British rule were suddenly brought to a conclusion, the only vestiges of our lost dominion would be sundry thousands of empty beer bottles. It may possibly be deemed that the bottle is a more pleasant token of civilisation than the gallows, but we could wish that some other evidence of intellectual superiority were offered to the savage

than a sample of our skill in distillation. The Major, indeed, seems to entertain rather material notions on most topics of national amelioration.

"When I first came to Assam in 1837," he writes, "there were but few brick bungalows with glass doors in the province, and every station was lost in jungles and swamps; but vast improvements have been effected. Brick bungalows with glass doors, brick gaols, courts of justice, record offices and treasuries, are everywhere to be met with." What a satire on the humanising influences of the British sway! If we cannot reclaim the barbarian, we at least bring him to trial in a brick house with glass doors, and then confine him in another brick house, without glass doors, because he has violated laws he never understood. Another instance adduced to illustrate the beneficial effects of intercourse with Europeans is in the veneration now paid to the coin of the realm in preference to shells and beads, which will no longer "purchase anything." The Nagahs now understand the merits of the "splendid shilling" as well as a Philips. Some attempts have also been made to convert this clan to Christianity, but the means employed are sufficiently small to warrant the interposition of a miracle. A schoolmaster has been appointed, and copies of the Bible supplied in the Assamese and Bengalee languages, but without any marked success, although Major Butler expresses himself very favourably as to their capacity for receiving instruction. He speaks of them as the most unprejudiced race he ever met with—particularly as regards their diet.

They eat dogs, rats, elephants, tigers, rhinoceroses, cows, pigs, and fowls; but, strange to say, they have no ducks. A dead elephant is esteemed a great prize as well as a delicacy. The flesh is merely dried in the sun and eaten without any further cooking, either roasting or boiling. They are extremely fond of spirituous liquors, the stronger the better; we gave them wine, beer, and brandy; the latter was highly approved of, but the bitter taste of the beer they did not at all relish; they did not either like vinegar or sauces, or anything sour; but sugar, jams, aniseed, or anything sweet, pleased them much, and they immediately asked for more. In fact they ate and drank of everything we offered them, and smoked our cheroots with great satisfaction. If such a people could receive a moral education, how soon," &c.

The religious belief of these interesting tribes, so well disposed to Christian cheer, is at present somewhat vague and undefined. A few clans worship the sun and moon, others believe in a plurality of gods endowed with equal power, to whom they offer in sacrifice pigs, fowls, and spirituous liquor. Their sacrifices are great rejoicings after the manner of the Israelites. To their deity they present a scanty portion, composed of the refuse parts, and with the rest they feast and make merry. They have also a confused notion of spirits who dwell in rocks and trees and rivers, and they imagine that sickness and other evils incidental to humanity may be averted by the slaughter and consumption of hogs and fatlings from the flock. One of their most horrid superstitions is to cut off the head, hands, and feet of any one they can master—not necessarily an enemy—and stick them up in the fields to ensure a good harvest. At Dheemahpoor there are remains not unlike those at Abury, a circumstance that may perchance be distorted into an illustration of the common origin of the human race and of human worship. This line of argument is in the *naïf* style of Nelson's profession of faith. Remarking one day to a friend that he still retained the sensation of fingers on the arm he had lost, he triumphantly added, "which proves the immortality of the soul, and makes the whole thing quite clear." The natural inference is rather that similar causes will, *ceteris paribus*, always produce similar effects, and that similar premises in Assam and Anglesea will lead to similar conclusions. The following is the description of the avenue of stone pillars within the old fort of Dheemahpoor:—

After passing through the gateway into the fort, we met with two rows of thirty curious round sandstone pillars, carved with representations of the lotus flower; then two rows of fifteen square pillars, roughly carved with figures of peacocks, tigers, deer, and elephants. Many of the pillars are broken and prostrate. The rows of pillars are fifty-five feet wide and two hundred and thirty-six feet long; ten feet between each pillar, and twelve feet between each row. Taking the average height of the square pillars at eighteen feet, twelve above and six underground, and five feet square, the weight of each of these stones, when quarried, was not less than seven hundred and twenty-nine maunds, or about twenty tons. The largest round pillar is thirteen feet high, and six feet six inches in diameter; one of the smallest is ten feet high, and three feet nine inches in diameter. . . . Each pillar is supposed to have been the appointed seat of a grandee according to his rank. It is said that every year, on a fixed day, all the nobles assembled in this hall of audience, and a human being was decapitated between two square pillars in the centre of the hall before the assembly, as a sacrifice to appease the wrath of the deity.

The major rather inconsequentially argues from the size of these stones that "they are made on the spot from some composition of sand and other ingredients, as it does not seem practicable to convey such enormous masses of stone from the Nagah hills, which are distant from this spot thirteen miles." But the stones at Abury have been computed to weigh fifty tons, and yet they were arranged symmetrically in circles as well as in the two great avenues, and placed at precisely equal distances from one another.

The criminal code of the Kookies, two of the most powerful clans, must oftentimes cause the heart of a sufferer to leap with joy. The penalty of death is not inflicted for theft, adultery, or murder, for this wise people prefer the spilling of liquor to the shedding of blood. The ordinary penalty for most offences is a pot of liquor, or a pig. "When a fine is paid with a pig, the animal is killed and cut up into pieces, and portions are given to all the chiefs, as well as to the owner of the house in which the pig has been cooked, and the remainder is given in equal portions to the public." The unclean animal plays a distinguished part in all their festival ceremonies, and they are ever ready to exclaim with Carlo Buffone, "Pork, pork is your only feed," and perhaps for the same reason: "Tis an axiom in natural philosophy what comes nearest the nature of that it feeds converts quicker to nourishment, and doth sooner essentiate. Now, nothing in flesh and entrails assimilates or resembles man more than a hog or swine."

The grand monument, however, to the wisdom of the New Kookies is the institution of Rajahship, which proves the existence of strong Tory principles in the mountains of Assam: probably the tribe is of Caucasian origin:—

One, among all the Rajahs of each class, is chosen to be the Prudham or Chief Rajah of that clan. All the Rajahs are connected, having sprung from the same original stock; nor can any other person succeed to this dignity until the present race of Rajahs is extinct. Should none of the family survive, the family of the chief

minister would become the head of the clan, and consequently that from which the Rajahs would be selected; but there can be little fear of any such contingency, as the person of the Rajah is held to be sacred. For instance, should two clans go to war, the inferior members on both sides might be killed, but no one would think of killing either Rajah. . . . After the death of a Rajah his body is kept in this state (smoke-dried) for two months before burial, in order that his family and clan may still have the satisfaction of having him before them. He is then interred with grand honours, cows and pigs being killed to feast the whole clan, and pieces of their flesh sent to distant villages. The heads of the animals killed at his burial are placed on large posts of wood over his grave. His son, however young, is then elected Rajah, and looked up to with an almost superstitious respect.

BARBARIC PEARLS.

Bhagavad-Gita; or, the Sacred Lay. A New Edition of the Sanskrit Text; with a Vocabulary. By J. Cockburn Thomson. Hertford: Stephen Austin.

The Bhagavad-Gita. Translated, with Copious Notes, an Introduction on Sanskrit Philosophy, and other matter, by J. Cockburn Thomson. Hertford: Stephen Austin.

The Private Life of an Eastern King. By a Member of the Household of his late Majesty, Nussir-u-Deen, King of Oude. Hope and Co.

Journal of a Tour in the Principalities, Crimea, and Countries Adjacent to the Black Sea, in the Years 1835-36. By Lord De Ros. John W. Parker and Son.

HISTORY and tradition are equally silent on the subject of the aboriginal tribes of India. Nothing is known, and very little even conjectured, regarding the ages antecedent to the irruption of the Aryans, or Hindoos, "a race of simple cowherds, who entered the Peninsula at the north-west corner, and long dwelt on the banks of the Scinde ere they penetrated into the interior." So complete was the work of conquest, that the conquered were reduced to a state worse even than slavery. They were enrolled, without distinction, into a fourth, or lowest caste—the Shudras—and treated as beings of a lower order than human. The three other castes were the Brahmins, or priests; the Kshatriyas, or warriors; and the Vaishyas, or artisans; who were all in some measure united by the common "privilege of investiture with the Brahmanical thread at years of maturity." Alone possessed of any pretensions to learning, the priesthood asserted their supremacy by declaring the murder of a Brahman to be a crime inexpiable, either in the present life or in that to come. The warrior caste in like manner affirmed their superiority over the artisans, and after a time a divine origin was claimed for this absolute hierarchy, this arrogant nobility. But although the character of the native race was effaced by that of the more hardy invaders, the latter, in their turn, were subdued by the enervating influence of the climate. Mind and body being equally unemployed, both priests and warriors conceived a disgust for life, and found it "necessary to seek consolation in a hidden and uncertain future." Hence arose a system of philosophy based on the doctrine of metempsychosis, or the transmigration of souls. Polytheism and hero-worship, while they exalted men unto gods, had reduced the gods to the level of men. At the same time "the life of the jungle and the love of the chase" had taught the Indian to desecrate human attributes in many of the inferior animals:—

Thus gods, animals, and even elements and natural phenomena, were, so to speak, humanised; while, on the other hand, men and beasts were deified; and hence the recognition of like souls in all three classes of beings. But the likeness of these souls to one another would immediately give rise to the idea that the same souls passed through certain grades of bodies, from animals to man, from man to gods. This idea once implanted, the belief in the eternity of the soul would immediately ensue, since it would be seen that in passing from one body to another, the body it quitted died, whereas the soul died not, and this idea would be repeated to infinity. The eternity of the soul once established, a certain number of individual souls would be supposed to exist, and to have existed, from the creation of matter which they occupy, and thus a common origin would have been easily asserted for them. This common origin was Spirit, which was later only identified with the Supreme Being; and since the individual souls emanated from it, they must also, at the dissolution of matter, be reabsorbed into it. It therefore exists, and continues to exist, and keeps up its connexion to a certain degree with the souls which have emanated from it.

The great problem of life, then, was to accelerate the process of reabsorption by the acquisition of knowledge. Having passed from reptile to beast, from beast to man, from man to inferior deity, and thence to superior deity, the soul attained the utmost limit of material bodies; but the final emancipation from matter could only be effected by perfect knowledge, the result of contemplation.

Having established the existence of the soul, the Aryan philosophers deduced the existence of spirit. And in like manner having acknowledged "the individual existence and connexion of material bodies," they inferred the existence of a material essence. But then arose the question of the object and reason of an arbitrary existence which few would accept had they the option of refusing it. This inquiry Kapila undertook to answer by giving to the material essence the will and power to decree the emanation and reabsorption of all matter. The material essence thus became, under the name of Prakriti or Nature, "the plastic principle, and to a certain degree, the deity of his system." Many of his followers, however, denied the volition of matter, and conceded it alone to the spiritual essence. A new school was thus formed which found adherents among the vast majority of mankind whose timid intellect demands some palpable object of worship.

It was the will of the Supreme that he himself should undergo this development into individual soul and organised matter. It was his will that evil should exist beside good, which alone existed in him; and that the soul, placed in a body the lowest in the scale, should gradually ascend till it reached that of man. To man alone was the choice between good and evil granted, to him alone was it possible to effect his emancipation from material life, by the same means which Kapila had set forward—perfection through knowledge; or by the neglect of this means, to rise in the scale of material bodies by obedience to the established religion, or to sink by neglect of both.

It being agreed on all hands that perfect knowledge was indispensable for

the final emancipation from matter, it became an object of the highest moment to determine how this knowledge was to be obtained. According to Patanjali, who probably flourished several centuries before the Christian era, —though posterior to the revolution of Buddha—this desirable consummation could be achieved only by the most rigid asceticism, and the loftiest stage of mental abstraction. By these means, he maintained, the soul and even the mind would become invested with transcendental powers that would gradually effect the reabsorption into the universal spiritual essence. But a doctrine so seductive to the indolent and naturally contemplative Hindoo was fraught with great social dangers, for the counteraction of which a wise, sensible, and ingenious Brahman composed the sacred poem entitled *Bhagavad-Gita*. The object of the sacred Lay was to add the ethical element to the speculative and theological systems that then prevailed.

It was the work of a Brahman, a philosopher, and a poet, united in one man. With unparalleled skill its author converted the very doctrines—which, originating with Patanjali, had seduced thousands from the active duties of the city, or the provinces, to the monastic seclusion of the jungle—to a means of recalling them to those duties, of setting a limit to the fanaticism and ambition of the nobility, of establishing the necessity of restrictions of caste even under the most difficult circumstances, and of infusing into the hearts of all, a religious, a philosophic, and in some respects almost a Christian morality.

This poem, the most remarkable work belonging to the ancient literature of the Hindoos, has been ably translated and explained by Mr. Cockburn Thomson, whose intimate knowledge of his subject has enabled him to compress into a brief treatise the history of Sanskrit philosophy, and to illustrate in a particularly clear and lucid manner the distinctive tenets of the different schools.

The contrast between the ascetic Hindoo and the sensual Mussulmaan strikes the most casual observer on his first arrival in the country. And the more familiar he becomes with the habits and manners of the two peoples, the greater will be his commiseration for the conquered, and his contempt for the conquering race. In the kingdom of Oude, for instance, he will observe the most gross debauchery practised by the court, the most abject servility among the lower orders, and the vilest corruption pervading all classes. The anonymous author of the *Private Life of an Eastern King*—whom we take to have been portrait-painter to his late Majesty Nussir-ood-deen, of detestable memory—has drawn aside the thin veil that partially concealed from the public gaze the scenes of riotous excess daily enacted in the royal palace at Oude, and has furnished a strong argument to those who insist upon the necessity of annexing that unhappy country. The king appears to have been in a constant state of transition from one stage of inebriety to the next; his two chief characteristics being drunkenness and cruelty. In the one he was heartily joined by the wretched European parasites who attach themselves to every native Court, and in the other he was seldom checked even by a mild remonstrance. These creatures the author is pleased to speak of as "courtiers," of whom the most powerful was the Barber, originally cabin-boy in a merchant-ship. One day two of these "courtiers"—of whom the author was one—while driving through the streets of Lucknow, "came upon a trampled bloody mass, bearing still some resemblance to a human figure." It was the corpse of a female, whom they supposed to have been made "an example" of by the king's orders: but what Englishman ever cared for prince or potentate when a woman's wrongs were to be redressed? Let this noble Briton, this Christian gentleman, tell his own tale.

Apparently she was quite dead; and we did not delay. A courtier must not interfere with the vengeance of a king; so that, even had we seen signs of life, I candidly confess I do not think we should have descended from the vehicle to succour her, impressed as we were with the conviction that the execution was by the king's orders.

On another occasion, in a combat between a tiger and a horse, the latter broke the jaw of his terrible foe, and came off proudly triumphant.

"Let another tiger be set at him!" shouted the king to the natives, after he had watched him for a moment or two. "Damn him; I will have my revenge for his destroying Burraha." The latter observation was addressed to us, the attendant European courtiers, and was in English. We rubbed our hands, smiled, said it was most just, bowed, and awaited further sport.

Faugh! But we will not insult our readers by delaying them amid the disgusting scenes so flippantly described by this accomplished courtier, of whom it is sufficient to say that he remained upwards of three years in attendance on a monarch who, in the words of the *Calcutta Review*, "more than perpetuated the worst practices of his predecessors."

Engaged in every species of debauchery, and surrounded by wretches, English, Eurasian, and Native, of the lowest description, his whole reign was one continued satire upon the subsidiary and protected system. Bred in a palace, nurtured by women and eunuchs, he added the natural fruits of a vicious education to those resulting from his protected position. His Majesty might one hour be seen in a state of drunken nudity with his boon companions; at another he would parade the streets of Lucknow, driving one of his own elephants. In his time all decency, all propriety, was banished from the Court. Such more than once was his conduct, that Colonel Lowe, the Resident, refused to see him, or to transact business with his minions.

It is quite refreshing to turn from the vulgarity and unredeemed coarseness of the anonymous "courtier," to the unpretending and inoffensive little volume from the pen of Lord de Ros. If his lordship's Diary has no other merit, it possesses in an eminent degree that of brevity. Considerable jealousy, it seems, had arisen in this country, in the years 1834 and 1835, with regard to the warlike preparations then being made by Russia in the Black Sea, as if with some hostile designs against the Porte. The Government, therefore, despatched Lord de Ros and Captain Drinkwater to ascertain, by personal inspection, how far these rumours were justified by any appearance of unusual activity in the fortresses, ports, and arsenals along the shores of the Euxine. The result of this mission is not very clearly discernible from his lordship's narrative, but, from the ready facility afforded by the Russians for the furtherance of their object, it may be inferred that the two British officers were more deeply impressed with an agreeable view of Muscovite hospitality than alarmed by any fears of Muscovite aggression.

ROMAIC AND MODERN GREEK.

Romaic and Modern Greek. By James Clyde, M.A. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

WE said, some time ago, that living Greece must henceforth be regarded as an entity; we may now add, that the modern Greek tongue offers materials worthy the consideration of the student of modern philology, as compared with the ancient. The treatise of Mr. Clyde is to show the distinctions and the points of resemblance between the Romaic and the modern Greek, and between these and the ancient language. He treats, therefore, of the elements and principal characteristics of the Romaic dialects, of the various modes by which these dialects began in former times, and still continue, thanks to the efforts of literature, journalism, and ecclesiastical science, to transform themselves into a language, and also of their tendency, amid philological dissensions, to a nearer approach to the classics of antiquity.

The history of language may, without hesitation, be considered the history of the intellectual, and, in a certain degree, of the political life of a nation. Those conquests which changed the existence and governments of nations have also reconstructed modern language upon the ruins of the ancient idioms. To those who would retrace the historical traditions of the human race, no monument is a safer guide than philology to point out the changes effected by conquest or migration. Thus, although the inhabitants of ancient Greece had their peculiar dialects, some of which were exalted to the rank of a language by the genius of great writers, yet the Romaic, so called from its admixture with foreign, and, in the first instance, entirely Roman elements, is the result of corruptions introduced not only by the Romans, but also by the Slavonians, Saracens, Franks, and Turks, and engrafted on the ancient popular language, which thus retains traces of each of these conquerors:—

"The Romaic dialects are in fact," says Mr. Clyde, "like the acropolis of modern Athens, a faithful historical monument. As the temple of wingless victory, the Propylæum, the Erechtheum, and the Parthenon connect it with the age of Pericles, so do the ruinous state of these erections, the rubbish which encumbers the stranger's path, the medieval tower at the entrance, and the heterogeneous wall which encircles the crest of the rock tell of repeated disasters and long decay. In like manner, whilst the time-worn Eolo-Doric basis of the Romaic dialects connects them with the highest Greek antiquity, their superstructure is mingled with heterogeneous materials of a later date, on which conquerors, civilised and barbarous, have inscribed their language and their name."

Greece had not that power which easily enabled the genius of a Dante to reorganise the fragments of a barbarous Latin into a new language. Hence, while the Italian language, founded on the Latin, either cancelled all traces of barbarism or naturalised them, the Romaic dialects merely corrupted the Greek idioms, without moulding them into a new language.

What, then, is the modern Greek language? It is the imperfect result of this multifarious mixture of foreign elements, uncertain in lexicography as in grammar, arbitrary in the written as in the spoken language, sufficiently fine to remind us of its noble origin, but, at the same time, so far debased as to indicate all the phases of a long period of servitude. The ancient language, from its variety of construction, from its etymological changes, and from the varied elements of civilisation, has been, and still is, left far behind. As might naturally be expected, the revival of Hellenism gave new life to the study of the Greek language; and Riga, who, like Giovanni da Procida, made the tour of Europe to stir up Philhellenism, and who fell by the hand of the sanguinary Austrian, first victim of the Greek revolution, sang a hymn to Liberty; this was the first echo of the new language. Since then many have aspired to become the Homers or Dantes of Greece; and thus the schools of the Philologues were divided. We may here quote Mr. Clyde, to describe this period and its results:—

The immediate restoration of ancient Greek was the fond delusion of a few scholars, and the adoption of the Romaic, the enthusiastic expression of devotion to the popular cause on the part of a few poets and politicians; but both were wanting in the elements of success, and failure was due to the unintelligibility of ancient Greek on the one hand, and to the inadequacy of Romaic on the other. The compromise, which resulted in modern Greek, gave the requisite lingual expression to the national unity, and established that intellectual intercourse between the several classes of society which is indispensable to sound national progress.

Still unsettled in all its parts of speech, it cannot yet be considered a perfect language; and this for a very simple reason. The Greek writers attempt, as far as possible, to recur to the ancient grammar and lexicons, but the style of thought among the modern Greeks is essentially European; hence, the result of these two facts would, as a whole, merit the criticism passed in Italy on the Abbé Cesarotte's translation of Homer: "The statue of the great poet appears in the coat, waistcoat, cravat, and trousers of the present day."

Mr. Clyde's short pamphlet, notwithstanding the sterility inseparable from philological disquisitions, is not wanting in historical observations gleaned on the spot, and we consider it to be as important to the student as to the learned. It however suggests a few considerations of a different nature. It is strange that in a country like England, where every new object of investigation is anxiously sought for by a very numerous class of literary men, the people, the student, and the learned should be so slow in directing their attention to that which other nations have for some years made a subject of deep research and labour. The study of the modern Greek language, out of Greece, began in Paris, and at the various German and Italian universities, where Greek youths, particularly from the Islands, were sent; hence, those countries were provided with grammars and dictionaries far less imperfect than those of England, many years before Colonel Leake, Professor Blackie, Mr. Donaldson, and Mr. Corpe placed their comparatively meagre productions before the public. Louis Philippe maintained several pupils in Athens for that sole object. The French colleges established in the East make it one of their principal studies, and the language becomes in their hands a powerful instrument of political and religious influence. We will say nothing of Germany; the influence of the reigning family of Bavaria in Athens speaks sufficiently for itself. There is nothing similar in England; yet, independently of the importance of the study for the correct pronunciation of the ancient Greek, why not study for itself that which is still one of

the living languages of Europe? We have carried war into a country where the greater portion of the inhabitants are Greeks, where trade and commerce are in the hands of the Greeks, where the most vital interests of state belong to the Greeks, and where, consequently, the Greek language is the most generally spoken, even more than the Turkish, and yet there are scarcely a dozen Englishmen who know or care anything about the living Greek language.

We trust our youth of the industrial classes will soon be taught to consider modern Greek as a study of the utmost importance, more especially for those who are preparing to carry on that expanding commerce which is but now springing up in the Archipelago, and on the Asiatic and European coasts of the Ottoman Empire.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

- Chemistry, Meteorology, and the Function of Digestion Considered with Reference to Natural Theology.* By William Ront, M.D. &c. Henry G. Bohn.
The Heptameron of Margaret Queen of Navarre, Translated from the French, with a Memoir of the Author. By Walter K. Kelly. Henry G. Bohn.
A Letter to the Right Honourable Sir Benjamin Hall, Bart., President of the General Board of Health. By John Snow, M.D. John Churchill.
Outlines of Mythology, for the Use of Schools. By a Scholar of Trinity College, Dublin. John W. Parker and Son.
Cleon. By Robert W. Thom. Hamilton, Adams, and Co.
Hardwicke's Shilling Baronetage and Knightage, 1855. Compiled by Edward Wal-ford, M.A. R. Hardwicke.
Principles and Rudiments of Mineralogy, Botany, Zoology. By C. R. W. Watkins. R. Hardwicke.
Russia as it is at the Present Time; in a Series of Letters. By James Carr, a Working Man, lately Returned from the Interior of that Empire to England. (Second edition, revised and corrected.) Whittaker and Co.
Chambers's Journal of Popular Literature, Science, and Arts. (Part XIX.) W. and R. Chambers.
The Errors and Evils of the Bank Charter Act of 1844, as Divulged by Lord Over-stone in his Lordship's Evidence before the Select Committee of the Houses of Par-liament, Appointed to Inquire into the Causes of the Commercial Distress in the year 1847. By Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Macdonald. Richardson, Brothers.
Outlines of Military Surgery. By Sir George Ballingall, M.D., &c. (Fifth edition.) Adam and Charles Black.
Introduction à la Philosophie de Hegel. Par A. Véra. W. Jeffs.

The Arts.

FRENCH CRITICISM ON ENGLISH PICTURES.*

SECOND AND FINAL ARTICLE.

(See the Leader, No. 274.)

"I AM aware that Mr. MACLISE enjoys great popularity in England. His oil-paintings are in as great favour as Mr. LEWIS's water-colours and Madame TESSAUD's wax-works. But I do not think that Art has anything to do with these singular successes. Mr. MACLISE has had the luck to treat national subjects; Mr. LEWIS the good fortune to paint foreign ones: the first appeal to Saxon patriotism, the second to curiosity. The minute execution of petty details gives to the paintings of both a preciseness and dryness highly satisfactory to all those unimaginative minds who are lovers of legerdemain, enthusiasts of cocoa-nut carvings, fanatics of pen-and-ink sketches, and who admire wonderingly a writing-master's drawing "Androcles and his Lion" with a single penful of ink. Mr. LEWIS's water-colours, like Mr. MACLISE's oil-paintings, are made up of details grouped together without any reference to ensemble; the dryness of the drawing is enlivened only by a cacophony of colouring, of which the history of painting offers no previous example.

And yet, in spite of what I say, Mr. MACLISE is a clever man, and there is a great deal of cleverness in Mr. LEWIS's water-colours. So much the better for those gentlemen, so much the worse for painting! Cleverness is killing Art in England, and the beautiful has no more dangerous enemy than this cleverness. Mr. WEBSTER has cleverness more than enough. His picture called "Football" is coloured coldly, drawn carefully, and composed with extreme cleverness. Imagine a troop of ruddy, healthy children, well furnished with teeth, in good condition, and fed upon meat underdone (*viande saignante*). These little roast-meat eaters, vil-lagers by trade, are in pursuit of a ball which has maliciously led them into the midst of a bush of thorns. The three most eager ones have passed through the danger without leaving much wool behind them; the rest have fallen in a heap, one upon the other, in the midst of the thorns and brambles; the head only of one is to be seen, the contrary end only of another; one has his hat knocked over his eyes, another his stockings falling over his shoes; one is feeling his head, another his arm, a third his knee; one opens his mouth and shuts his eyes, another opens his eyes and shuts his mouth; the first seizes the hair of the second, who pushes the third, who fastens on to the arm of the fourth; there are kicks and blows from one end of the picture to the other; the cleverest tactician of the troop has ingeniously made a circuit, has got in advance of the ball, and is waiting for it. Will he catch it? Mr. WEBSTER will no doubt tell us at the next universal exhibi-tion; for at the foot of these picture feuilletons might be written: "To be continued in the next number."

In "A Village Choir" the same artist has amused himself by grouping some twenty perfectly national grimaces. This painting is of great interest to collectors anxious to compare all the varieties of the English type. His "Two Portraits" is a pleasing little picture. The man's face appears to me somewhat vulgar; but the snowy head of the old woman is perhaps the finest thing that Mr. WEBSTER has sent us.

Between Mr. WEBSTER and Mr. GOODALL there is only the science of

* These lively and clever chapters are taken from M. E. About's *Voyage à l'Exposition*, published in Paris this week by M. Hachette.

drawing. Mr. GOODALL does not draw his figures, he only sketches them. His "Hall for the Benefit of the Widow" is a pretty composition, tolerably coloured but feebly drawn. That stamp of individuality which drawing alone can give is wanting to all the persons, both great and small, whom the artist has set in motion. Yet the picture will please; the idea is lively, the composition clever, and the public cares little for merit of execution.

I can say without flattery that one might spend a very pleasant day among the *tableaux de genre* which England has sent us, and which form its best contribution. They are works of good taste without any pretension to genius, finished with praiseworthy care, and never deficient in cleverness. Mr. HOBLEY's "Faithful Friend" is a marvellously-drawn large dog allowing himself to be caressed by a little girl. The child is one of those fragile creatures which the English know so well how to rear. The head is truthful and lifelike; unfortunately the hand is out of proportion. Mr. PHILLIPS's "Public Writer" is a charming picture, setting aside the rawness of the colouring. Any one would sooner apply to this stout open-air *escribano* than to our scribes, who put up in their windows:—"Unfortunate persons will here meet with the attention due to their position." The "First Meeting of Peter the Great and Catherine," by Mr. Egg, is not without a certain grandeur. The young emperor in uniform looks with curiosity, interest, and desire at the stout beauty whom he will one day raise to the throne. The future Czarina fulfils her menial functions with innate majesty, and if her eyes drop in presence of her guests, it is from pride, not timidity. Mr. LESLIE's "Uncle Toby and the Widow Wadman" is a delicious page out of *Tristram Shandy*. The widow is fascinatingly blooming, and on looking at the slight handkerchief which ill conceals her bosom, it is impossible not to hope that Uncle Toby's famous wound has had no unfortunate result. Our friend Tristram's worthy relative is in good health; his complexion is ruddy, and he is sufficiently stout, but not too much so, which would make one uneasy. From the way in which he is advancing *pour souffler dans l'œil* of the handsome widow, it is easy to recognise a man not yet detached from the things of this world. Truly, the siege of Dunkirk can only have grazed his vigorous frame, and his position is a far, far better one than that of Pore before the pitiless Lady MONTAGUE.

Mr. FARR's picture, showing us the love of the old poet treated with disdain by the noble traveller, is a superficial work. I see in Lady MONTAGUE nothing more than a handsome woman, laughing heartily; and even her beauty is too modern, too French, too Parisian. I should like to see in her the great lady and clever writer, the *Séviigné* of England, the woman who first gave us exact notions of the East, the benefactress of Europe, who brought us inoculation. Mr. FARR has given us nothing more than a tall, handsome woman, showing her teeth and her wit.

Sir E. LANDSEER's animals have the same defects as the men painted by his brother artists: *trop d'esprit*. It is only France and Belgium that know how to paint animals. The picture called "Jack on Guard" is *d'une finesse agaçante*. Dress up these dogs in a coat and hat and you will have a picture out of the *Charivari* at the time when it was publishing "Animals Painted by Themselves." Jack is the defender of property: we will put him on the hat of a gendarme. He seems to defy thieves and to say to them: "Only try! here are teeth that will have something to say to your skin." The little dog (I should cock a paper-cap knowingly on his head) says familiarly to Jack: "Give me a little, my good gendarme; only as much as would go in a nutshell. My parents made me so small that I might not be expensive to feed." The large watchdog is a lady *qui a eu des malheurs*; her head should be tied up in an old cotton handkerchief. She does not ask, she only looks at the meat. She belongs to the category of the bashful poor: you may be sure she has eight children lying on straw waiting for her. The poodle is a beggar by trade, a shameless beast, idle, a glutton, and a buffoon; he is doing the grand, and trying to mollify the gendarme by some immense joke. The mastiff, who comes next, seems to be taking the measure of the faithful Jack; he sees that there is something to be done; he feels strong, and knows by experience that "nothing venture, nothing have;" he is meditating a set-to with the gendarmierie. The last comer, who has not yet crossed the threshold of the door, is a prudent individual practising an expectant policy, ready to run away if there is fighting, and to share the spoils if there is plundering.

It would be easy to do the same with another scene of the private life of dogs, called "Breakfast." These compositions, too amusing for pictures, are excellent for vignettes; and Sir E. LANDSEER is the English painter who has been oftenest and best engraved. We have all admired the engraving called "The Sanctuary." That large stag standing in the midst of a pool, motionless, listening with outstretched ears to the distant sounds of the chase, whilst a flock of scared wild-fowl flies away behind him, is one of the simplest and most dramatic compositions ever invented by an animal painter. Well, the effect of the picture is less fine than that of the engraving; it seems as if the brush had struggled unsuccessfully against the engraver.

Yet Sir E. LANDSEER works out his ideas with a perfectly marvellous power of execution. The horses at the farrier's and the tethered ram are by a master's hand. But the slightly exaggerated precision of the drawing, the rawness of the colouring, a something hard in the manner, and, above all, the perfect absence of *naïveté*, give to this style of painting less charm than merit, and it amuses the eye without satisfying the taste. Have you noticed two small monkeys gnawing a pine-apple? That picture is worth 50,000 francs.

One of the most curious pictures, because it shows the labours of a clever man in pursuit of fancy, is "The Quarrel of Oberon and Titania," by a Scotch painter, Mr. J. N. PATON.

SHAKESPEARE, in a fairy piece which is a pendant to the *Tempest*, has introduced Oberon, King of the Fairies, and his wife Titania, into the city of Athens, in the midst of the heroic times. Oberon suspects his wife of taking too great an interest in Theseus; Titania accuses her husband of looking too admiringly at the amazon Hippolyta, mother of the chaste hero of our acquaintance. The two sovereigns of the invisible world quarrel in a bourgeois way in the midst of their winged court.

Mr. PATON has endeavoured to represent on canvas these small, mys-

terious, blooming, very naked, and tolerably silly people, which came all sparkling and airy out of SHAKESPEARE's imagination. His picture is the work of a draughtsman who has done his best. Oberon in green tights and a pink pallium is the best type of an Englishman; Titania is a thorough-bred lady who has not put her corset on. I do not know why it is that the nude always shocks one in English painting. I always think that the young Misses who are curtsying in *naturalibus* will run away crying *For shame!* if they see that we are looking at them.

With Mr. PATON, the dispute of the King and Queen of the Fairies is a polite quarrel, accompanied by academic gestures. From the movement of the lips, it is easy to see that they are quarrelling in English.

Round the principal group the artist has laboriously assembled an innumerable crew of comical little beings: pot-bellied dwarfs, nimble demons, grotesque *poussahs*, Will-o'-wispes loaded with iron, white and black imps, the heads of some carefully covered with the calyx of a flower, others mitred with a shell in the best taste, one riding on a butterfly, another on a snail, this one at war with a spider, that one gravely occupied in blowing off a dandelion's head. Around them insects hum a rhythm, beetles steadily scratch up the earth, flowers twist themselves about consciously; a scientific vertigo has seized upon the whole assembly; there is a perfect storm of kisses, as thick, but as cold, as hail. By some sleight-of-hand of which an Englishman only was capable, the artist has grouped this multitude of little naked beings without anything that could shock the most puritanical eye; no more of their rosy flesh is seen than is proper to look at; their closest carresses have something icy in them: sylphs and imps seem like so many schoolboys who have been warned to "amuse yourselves, but be good." This interpretation of SHAKESPEARE's poetry is extremely clever; but the wild reveries of the great master of fancy, thus mitigated, calmed down and made respectable, give me the idea—I hope the English will excuse the comparison—of iced punch.

And yet our neighbours would have a fine game in their hands if they would be colourists. Their somewhat gloomy climate ought to incline them to colour. Colour is not a tropical production. Under a cloudless sky, in a pure, dry, clear atmosphere, nothing is seen but lines. Shade is wanting, and without shade, light is of no value. That is why the Greeks were such great draughtsmen and such poor colourists: they no more know the value of a sunbeam than a millionaire understands the value of a halfpenny. It was under the salt mists of Venice, and the heavy sky of Holland, that the beauty of the contrasts of light and shade were first suspected. A picture by REMBRANDT would be a hieroglyphic on canvas to a native of Cairo, Athens, or Beyrout. He would ask what sin those poor human figures had committed, for which they were buried in external darkness. The English have no such cause for wonder: they know what it is to be in darkness; they know the value of a sunbeam sharp as a gimlet through a mass of clouds: if fog is a good teacher of colouring, they are in a capital school.

But I recollect that at the Collège Charlemagne, where we had the best masters in Paris, most of the pupils, instead of attending to the lesson, amused themselves by drawing *des bonshommes*.

Yet England has colourists. If I said she had many, I should lie like Mr. BARNUM. But she has some. Let us reckon on our fingers. Mr. KNIGHT, Sir C. L. EASTLAKE, Mr. POOLE, and Mr. DANBY. There are four clever English painters of *genre*, who paint with a brush and not with a nail.

I ought perhaps to have mentioned Sir C. L. EASTLAKE first, since he is the President of the Royal Academy of London; but his "Spartan Isadas" lies on my conscience. The noble President of the Royal Academy seems to have chosen that subject in order victoriously to prove that historical painting cannot take root in England. The "Svegliarina," the "Pilgrims," and the "Flight of Francesco di Carrara," are three warm and luminous paintings. One can see that the painter has brought back a little Italian sun on his palette. The head of the *Svegliarina*, which recurs in both the other pictures, is very remarkable. The two last-named subjects are tastefully composed; the drawing is somewhat slack, but one cannot have everything at once.

Of all the English colourists, Mr. KNIGHT is the one whose painting most resembles ours. Certain parts of his picture of the "Wreckers," a drama in three acts, recal the manner of M. DELACROIX. The effect of the left panel is especially admirable. The torch fastened to the horse's head throws out a sinister glare, and lights up horribly well the red smock-frock, bandy legs, and rascally countenance of the negro. The middle panel is less remarkable, both as to drawing and colouring; but the other two can bear comparison with the good pictures of the French Exhibition. Mr. KNIGHT is a painter; Mr. POOLE is another. I have spoken of his "Job." The "Queen of the Gipsies" and the "Crossing a Stream" are two pretty ideas clothed in vague, misty colouring, and infinitely charming.

"The Evening Gun," by Mr. DANBY, is a simple and vigorous work. A man-of-war, anchored in a foreign roadstead, in a flat, dreary, and morose country, fires a gun as night sets in. Long clouds, part black and part red, reach to the horizon; the land is hidden in a thick twilight, through which a fisherman's fire, burning on the shore, hardly shows itself. The ship is motionless; the large tumultuous machine enters on its rest; the masts are deserted, no top-men are running among the yards, which are carefully laid out in a straight line; the gun is the last sign of life of the whole crew. Mr. DANBY's picture breathes of sadness and solitude; it leaves a melancholy on the mind.

To this short list I willingly add Mr. Hook's pretty picture of "Venice as We Dream of It." It is less a picture than the superposition of two paintings connected by an arm and a rose. The draperies are elegant, the colours joyous; it is a cheerful work, an agreeable preservative against the spleen.

But colouring finds so little favour in England, that the kings of the day are the pre-Raphaelite painters, the chief of whom is a young man of four-and-twenty, Mr. MILLAIS.

I regret that Mr. MILLAIS, a man of very liberal mind, should give himself up to reactionary painting. Why return to PERUGINO and forget

that RAPHAEL, MICHAEL ANGELO, and TITIAN have existed?—Has painting made no progress since the fifteenth century, and must we admit that all the genius of the greatest masters has served only to corrupt taste?

Mr. MILLAIS draws divinely and paints scientifically. His pictures, painted with truly British conscientiousness, not only reproduce the form and colour of flesh, but the texture of stuffs; the tradesman who sold the cloth would recognise the quality of his goods; the sheep who furnished the wool would know the nature of his fleece. This merit would be but mediocre if the finish of the details destroyed the effect of the *ensemble*; but Mr. MILLAIS expresses sentiment as well as a pair of gaiters, and a passion as well as a coat-sleeve. The "Order of Release" is a masterpiece, in spite of the minute perfection of all its details. The pretty little Ophelia, drowning herself unconsciously, is full of grace and *naïveté*; the landscape which surrounds her is full of melancholy feeling, although you can count the leaves of the trees. What are we to think of this? That Mr. MILLAIS has a great deal of talent, since he touches and charms us while depriving himself of all the means which modern art has discovered. We can only compare him to a man who has put on leaden soles to run a race in. Mr. MILLAIS will go far, if he will consent to change his shoes.

Mr. COLLINS belongs to the same school as his friend Mr. MILLAIS. Like him, he carefully abstains from any excess of archaism; but it is not only against excess that he has to guard. He paints conscientiously and lovingly; he studies nature faithfully and closely. His first works erred by feeble composition; his picture of "Madame de Chantal," without being irreproachable, denotes progress. The predominant qualities of Mr. COLLINS are austere simplicity in conception, care and remarkable talent in execution; but his painting resembles ours so little that it requires an entire education to appreciate it.

As to Mr. DYCE's "Virgin and Child," it is too decided an imitation of PERUGINO. She is reading the Gospel by anticipation, in a book nicely printed in Gothic letters. She has, like her son, a slightly Chinese physiognomy. The execution is far inferior to that of RAPHAEL's master. The shadows are dirty and clayey, and the body of the Divine Child is very much in want of a sponge.

LAWRENCE's native country has sent us some fine portraits, amongst which we remark three, of very different character.

The finest, if I am not mistaken, is the full length of the "Provost of Peterhead," by Sir J. WATSON GORDON. Setting aside a little uniformity in the *plans*, and monotony in the *modelé*, this picture is really a masterpiece. The face is real, living, thoroughly English; and it is not any given Englishman, it is the Provost of Peterhead. One may say *à priori* and without having seen the original, that the likeness is a striking one.

The picture of an old lady, by Mrs. W. CARPENTER, without being as vigorously painted, is remarkable for its boldness and breadth. The old lady has a delicate and haughty, though gentle countenance; it is aristocratic dignity rather than pride. She wears on her brow that look of thoughtful meditation which is the greatest ornament of old age. The dress, which seems to belong to two centuries ago, the arrangement of the head-dress, the chaplet round the neck, all, even to the gloss of age which covers and softens the painting, are in harmony. If the catalogue had not told me otherwise, I should have fancied I was looking at the picture of the great ELIZABETH, a year before her death, when her passions having died out, and the memory of Essex being effaced from her heart, she had no longer any thought but for great political schemes, the austere duties of religion, and satisfaction at having governed so well. Let us remark in passing that the dramatic history of MARY STUART is not even mentioned in the English Exhibition; there is not a picture, not a water-colour of it. The English follow NAPOLEON's precept: they wash their dirty linen at home.

Mr. BOXALL has painted the portrait of a young lady with thoroughly feminine delicacy. She is as white as a drop of milk, and fresh as spring dew. Her *naïve* face seems to take a long, startled look at the things of this world.

Mr. GRANT's portraits are perfect, save a little affectation. Mr. GRANT is the most direct heir to LAWRENCE's qualities and defects.

The English, who possess the art of creating landscapes in their parks and gardens, appear to me less clever in painting them. I will except Mr. LINNELL, who is both an exact landscape painter and a warm colourist. "The Waggon bringing Trees from the Forest," and "The Path through the Mountains," will be especially noticed. I only regret that nature should appear so rugged and hairy in Mr. LINNELL's pictures. In that lies a little mannerism.

Mr. HOLLAND has painted water splendidly in his "View of Rotterdam." "The Thames at Greenwich" is a remarkable work. Nothing but a little naturalness is wanting to this painting. Mr. CRESWICK's "Showers" shows a little less talent and a little more truthfulness. "The Poet's Ravine" of Mr. REDGRAVE is a pretty picture, a little monotonous, and fatiguing from the excess of detail. Mr. GILBERT's landscape—well drawn, fresh, delicate, and in beautiful harmony—is too heavy, too glossy, and fatiguing. But Mr. GILBERT distinguishes himself from his countrymen by the truthfulness of his colouring. I fear that all English landscape painters see nature through prejudiced eyes: one puts on pink glasses, another yellow ones; almost all use microscopes. Gentlemen, leave your glasses, and open your eyes wide; that is how nature requires to be looked at.

I can now pass without transition from oil to water-colour painting; these two styles are less distinct in England than they are with us. More than one English picture has the paleness and faint grace of a water-colour; more than one water-colour is as vigorous as a picture. Water-colour painting is a national art in England. There are two water-colour societies in London—the Old Water-Colour Society and the New Water-Colour Society, which exhibit brilliantly and sell dearly the works of their associates. This style of art, which we willingly leave to young ladies' schools, is cultivated in England by artists of the first class. And our neighbours do wonders with their colours and clear water: they obtain effects which we have not even sought.

Mr. HAAO's two paintings, "Evening at Balmoral Castle" and "Morning

in the Highlands," in no way resemble the little water-colour *drolleries* which are pasted in albums, or offered with a bouquet to a grandfather on the occasion of his fête. They are two fine, good pictures, solidly drawn, warmly coloured, and owing nothing to the gloss of varnish or the layers of paint. All is honest and aboveboard; water-colours do not admit of quackery. The effect of night is given almost as powerfully as in Mr. KNIGHT's "Wreckers;" the stag is as good as if drawn by Sir E. LANDSEER, the persons, as if by Mr. MULREADY. I should say that water-colours have never been used more successfully, if I had not seen a few steps further on the "Dutch Ships" of Mr. DUNCAN. That is what might be called a masterly water-colour, if two such words could go together in our language. Mr. DUNCAN has well deserved the reputation which he enjoys in England, and I regret that he has not sent a sufficient number of pictures to render his name popular amongst us. Mr. JACKSON, another known name, only shines in the Exhibition by his absence. We are the losers, and so is he. Mr. BURTON shows us his "Franconian Pilgrims." The English critics have thought this picture admirable in point of composition, poor in effect and colouring. I would willingly agree with the English critics; yet *admirable* is a strong word.

Mr. CORBOULD not only aspires to the effects of which oil-painting believed itself to be sole possessor, but he almost gives his water-colours the dimensions of historical painting. Certainly, his "Scene from the *Prophète*" is a wonderful *tour de force*; but what is the use of it? The artists who take so much trouble to do with water what they could do easily with oil, resemble those romantic lovers who come down the chimney when the door is wide open.

Yes, but water-colour painting is a national style.

When I see water-colours striving after colouring, and pretending to great effects, I fancy I meet a pretty young girl escaping from her convent disguised *en mousquetaire*.

But the English have been in possession for many centuries of . . . I fear that the water-colour painters are sacrificing their future fame to their present popularity. For, after all, water-colours, although they keep better than preserves, will not keep as long as oil-paintings.

But our fathers painted in water-colours; and we their descendants . . . All right! I do not discuss questions of patriotism, especially with the English. Let us rather speak of Mr. LEWIS.

His *chef-d'œuvre*, "A Bey's Harem," was sold in London for 25,000 francs. An equal sum was paid for the right of engraving it, total 50,000. I think it is difficult to carry the fetishism of water-colour painting any further.

Mr. LEWIS spent several years at Cairo, and I strongly suspect him of being the Bey whose harem he has painted. Many months were wanted to execute that large room of filagree work into which the sun penetrates through a lattice-work, and forms little lozenge shapes upon men and beasts; Mr. LEWIS worked daily at this strange occupation. After sketching the composition, which is pretty, he passed on to the execution, which is mediocre, to the drawing, which is weak, to the colouring, which is *criard*. When he had failed in a bit, he cut it neatly out, replaced the paper by some *pièce* of English manufacture, and began over again. One day he found his picture broken in two. He sent it over to England, had the pieces carefully pasted together again, and continued his work. You see that the manufacture of English water-colour paintings is a complicated business; but there is a good deal to be got at it. Mr. HUST's little *drolleries*, which border upon caricature, are sold for more than the pictures of M. INGRES, or M. DELACROIX.

Mr. CATTERMOLLE paints water-colours which have no pretension to being called pictures. They are small scenes cleverly arranged, and executed with rare talent. I should find it difficult to choose between Mr. CATTERMOLLE's eleven compositions. In all there are the same qualities, and as to the defects, they are still to seek. The drawing is correct without affectation. Mr. CATTERMOLLE has greater breadth than most painters in this country. The scene of "Brigands at Benvenuto's" would, perhaps, deserve the preference, if BENvenuto had been a likeness.

Some highwaymen have, in one of their nocturnal expeditions, met with a golden calf by BENvenuto CELLINI. They want to know if the thing is genuine, and if they have not been sold: being in doubt they consult the artist himself. The brigands have the physiognomy of their time and trade. Unfortunately, Mr. CATTERMOLLE has read neither CELLINI's *Memoirs*, nor M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS's *Ascanio*. He has given the Florentine artist the face and corpulence of a Greta-green blacksmith. The picture would be worth much more if one saw in it the impudent vagabond, the bragging, fighting, gambling-seeker of facile amours, the elegant and muscular adventurer, who was the real BENvenuto.

Decidedly I prefer "Sir Biorn of the Sparkling Eyes." Sir Biorn is an Englishman of the good old time. He gets drunk every evening, alone, in what is called English fashion. The only company he can endure is that of his ancestors. He has their rusty coats of mail placed in a circle, and he drinks to their healths *sans trinquer*. The grandfather of Sir Biorn, or at least his armour, is already under the table. Two other steel ancestors are leaning against one another that they may not fall, and the scion of all this illustrious *ferraille* stares filially and stupidly at his relations. We shall finish our examination of English painting with this sketch: pray confess that we could not do better.

To sum up, the English school is the only one in the world which does not imitate ours, and has preserved a marked originality.

It has more *esprit* than imagination, more science than talent, more minuteness than *nerve*, better drawing than colouring; *elle cherche la petite bête*, as they say in the studios of Paris. Its skill and manual dexterity improve daily.

Such as it is, it has an enormous money success throughout the United Kingdom. Its products are in request, it raises its prices, and cannot supply the demand.

In England, painting is the highest degree of luxury to those who buy, and the highest degree of industry to those who paint."

E. A.

A RAILWAY FROM FRANCE TO ENGLAND.—M. Favre, a French engineer, has just published some observations relative to the possibility of making a railway under the Channel from France to England. He observes that on the coast of Cornwall several mines extend a great many kilometres under the sea, and yet no accident occurs from an eruption of water, though the thickness above is so slight that the noise of the loose stones moved about by the waves can be distinctly heard. M. Favre lays great stress on the fact of the bed of the sea being hard rock, and therefore not likely to be worn through by the action of the waves.

THE RE-ELECTIONS.—The Hon. W. F. Cowper, and the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, have been re-elected respectively for Hertford and Kidderminster. In the former instance, there was no opposition; in the latter, Mr. Boycott, who had started, retired upon finding that he had no chance. At the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Lowe said:—"Something tells me that a dissolution of Parliament is not very far off, when I shall again present myself before you; but, if you want money, or beer, or flattery, or what is called clap-trap, you must go to another shop for it." Mr. Cowper and Mr. Lowe are both earnest supporters of the war.

DOWNING-STREET PUBLIC OFFICES.—The Report of the Select Committee on the condition of the Downing-street Public-offices contains a plan proposed last year by Mr. Pennington, the Government architect. We find this plan thus described by a daily contemporary:—"The great feature of the design consists of a quadrangle 250 feet by 150 feet, entered in the centre through a wide approach parallel with the return of the Treasury-buildings in Downing-street. Around this quadrangle would be distributed the new offices. A new Foreign-office would be erected on a plot of ground, comprising the vacant space contiguous to the State Paper-office, together with the site of three houses fronting South-parade, and that of other houses in Fludger-street. The Colonial-office to be built on the site of houses standing between Fludger-street and Crown-street, and a set of offices, the use of which has not yet been determined, would be built upon the vacant space and site of houses in Fludger-street. All the above-mentioned offices would occupy the south and south-west portions of the large quadrangle. On the east side of the latter, northwards, it is proposed to erect additions to the Board of Trade. On the northern extremity of the west side of the quadrangle, a large space would be allotted to the War Department."

LOSS OF LIFE ON WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.—An accident happened on Wednesday to one of the diving bells employed in the construction of the new Westminster Bridge, owing to which, the iron cog-wheels burst asunder, and the cogs were scattered completely across the carriage road. A gentleman who was passing was struck in the chest, which was completely broken in, and he died almost directly. One of the workmen was also badly hurt.

SHIP-ACCTING POINTS ON RAILWAYS.—A collision, owing to the defective working of these points, occurred a few days ago at the Bolton station of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. The train, instead of continuing on the main line, went into a siding, and dashed against a luggage train. The passengers were bruised and shaken; but no serious injury was received.

BOTTLER'S WISEMAN.—On this case, which has been tried twice before, being brought on at the Croydon Assizes on Monday, some surprise was excited by the announcement that terms of agreement had been come to. It transpired afterwards that the terms are, that the defendant is to pay 100*l.* towards the costs of the abortive trial at Guildford, and the whole of the taxed costs of the trial at Kingston, and the present action; and it was arranged between the counsel that no apology or retraction should be demanded or given. Thus has ended these proceedings. The costs to be paid, it was said, would amount to nearly 1200*l.*

THE CASE OF STRAHAN, PAUL, AND BATES, again came on at Bow Street on Wednesday, when further evidence was received touching one of Dr. Griffith's securities which had been traced to Mr. Levy, for whom it is held by Messrs. Coutts, the bankers. Mr. Strahan and Mr. Bates have now obtained bail; but Sir J. D. Paul has been unable to find sureties.

SHIPWRECK.—The Loire, iron steamship, was lost in a fog on Sunday morning, off Lundy Island. All hands were saved.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The returns of the metropolitan registrars are still of a satisfactory character. In the week that ended last Saturday, the total number of deaths registered was 993. In the corresponding weeks of 1849 and 1854, when so many lives were attacked with cholera, the deaths rose to nearly double that number—to 1909 in the former year, and to 1832 in the latter. The deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, and the present rate of mortality is therefore comparatively low. The returns announce only 5 cases of cholera for last week, 3 of which were "choleraic diarrhoea," or "cholera infantum." 146 persons have died of diarrhoea, of whom no less than 125 were under two years of age. Last week, the births of 833 boys and 750 girls, in all 1583 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54, the average number was 1387.—From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

A STORMY PEACE MEETING (as peace meetings are apt to be) was held on Wednesday evening in St. Martin's Hall, at the instance of Mr. John Hamilton, "of the Empire," a paper so called. Mr. Hamilton, having been voted to the chair, made a violent speech against the war, which he said had had the effect of depressing instead of increasing liberty. Mr. Bronterre O'Brien, to speak in legal language, "followed on the same side," and proposed a resolution embodying his views. Mr. Pasmore Edwards read an amendment, denouncing the war as "a delusion, a mockery, and a snare;" but the meeting, conceiving that this was no amendment, refused to allow it. Mr. Horace St. John then moved an amendment, recognising the justice of the war; upon which one of the peaceable gentlemen came forward, and aimed a blow at him with a riding-whip, which, however, was warded off by the chairman. Several other speakers addressed the meeting amidst much confusion; and in the end the resolution of Mr. O'Brien was carried, though by a very bare majority.

MRS. GALBREY, a lady of Northumberland, has rescued two men from drowning, by wading into the sea, and holding them until assistance arrived in the persons of some other women, when they were dragged up the bank and saved.

POISONED BY MISTAKE.—An infant has been poisoned by its mother-in-law giving it, in mistake, an embrocation instead of a draught.

INDIA.—The last mails from India bring absolutely no political news of interest. Lord Dalhousie, who continues at the Neilgherries, is improving in health; some valuable presents have been sent to the King of Burmah; and trade is dull.

THE WEST INDIES.—Nothing of importance seems to be stirring in the West India islands, the last accounts merely having reference to the state of trade, which is inactive.

THE EAGLE INSURANCE COMPANY.—The annual general meeting of the proprietors of this company took place on the 10th instant, when the chairman stated that the claims of last year on decrease of lives assured had been of unusually small amount, notwithstanding the serious degree of sickness that prevailed. A good rate of interest, he added, had been obtained for the company's money. Before sitting down, the chairman impressed on the meeting the importance of increasing the number of assurances.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, August 14.

BANKRUPTS.—BENJAMIN AND CHARLES HATNE, Upper Whitcross-street and Aldersgate-street, carpenters—ARTHUR COOLING AND HENRY MARCHAM, London-wall, soap makers—WILLIAM HACKETT, Oxford, gas engineer—JOHN FIELD, Burnham Westgate, Norfolk, draper—CHARLES MERRITT, Upper Stamford-street, Blackfriars, apothecary—JOHN GROVER, Strand, envelope maker—WILLIAM CHARLES GOODE, High-street, Borough, warehouseman—CHARLES HORSELL, Chelmsford, ironmonger—WILLIAM FAIRREY, Bedford, provision merchant—JOSEPH SPENCER, Bilston, Staffordshire, ironfounder—SAMUEL AND JOSEPH PENN, Birmingham, tailors—JOHN AND THOMAS MONK, Tipton, Staffordshire, boiler makers—RICHARD GODDARD, Nottingham, grocer—CHARLES PHILLIPS, Weston-super-Mare, and Burnham, Somersetshire, potter—WILLIAM FEAR AND WILLIAM FEAR, jun., Bristol, sawyers—LOUIS ARLBORN, Liverpool, toy dealer—WILLIAM BACKHOUSE, Latham, Lancashire, timber dealer—JOHN RUSHTON, Carlisle, plasterer—JOHN AUGUSTUS NOEL, South Shields, wine merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. KILGOUR, Auchtertool, Fifeshire, baker.

Friday, August 17.

BANKRUPTS.—JAMES CARTER DALTON, Coleman-street, City, trader—JOHN WITHERS TAYLOR, Nottingham, hosier—THOMAS EARLE, Parliament-street, Westminster, railway contractor—WILLIAM LEEHOAM AND WILLIAM ALFRED WILD, Sheffield, opticians—JOHN BROWNELL, Tipton, Staffordshire, shoemaker—WILLIAM BACKHOUSE, Latham (not Latham), as in last Tuesday's Gazette, timber dealer—WILLIAM BARTLETT WHITEWAY, Kingstonsington, Devonshire, miller—EDWARD WILLES KNIGHT, Bath, dealer in china, glass, and earthenware—GUSTAVUS GIDLEY, Torquay, Devonshire, share broker—CHARLES HENRY WALL AND CHRISTOPHER HOLT, Sarnesbury, Preston, cotton spinners—SAMUEL LEVIN WALTER, Manchester, coal merchant—JOSEPH WHITTLE, St. Helen's, Lancaster, provision dealer—EDWIN LATHAM AND WILFRED LATHAM, Liverpool, merchants—GEORGE WHARTON, Manchester, furniture broker—JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE AND WILLIAM JEFFERIES, West Bromwich, Staffordshire, ironmasters.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

DARLING.—August 19, at Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, the wife of his Excellency Charles Henry Darling, Esq.: a son.

THIMM.—August 14, at 3, Brook-street, Grosvenor-square, the wife of Francis Thimm, Esq.: a son.

WILSON.—August 14, at the Vicarage, Easby, the wife of the Rev. Charles Carson Wilson: a son.

MARRIAGES.

CHILD-BELL.—August 14, at All Saints' Church, Fulham, Charles Baylis Child, Esq., of Gosford Lodge, Fulham, to Charlotte, second daughter of William Bell, Esq., of Broom Villa, Fulham.

COLERIDGE-BARTON.—August 9, at St. Andrew's Church, Plymouth, William Russell Coleridge, Esq., South Devon Militia, son of the late Bishop Coleridge, of Salton, Devon, to Katherine Frances, only surviving daughter of the late Capt. R. Cutts Barton, of Burrough, Devon.

HANCOCK-SMITH.—August 11, at Great Greenford, John Hardwick Hancock, only son of the late John Hancock, Esq., of 2, Vernon-place, Bloomsbury-square, to Sarah Anne, the youngest daughter of William Smith, Esq., of the Manor House, Greenford.

DEATHS.

CLAY.—August 14, at Swinton, near Rotherham, John Clay, Esq., of Cottingham, Swedish and Norwegian Vice-Consul at Hull.

HOOF.—August 11, from disease of the heart, at his residence, Madeley House, Kensington, William Hoof, Esq., aged sixty-seven; and, in a few hours after, from the sudden shock, Elizabeth, his wife, aged fifty-six.

PLAYFAIR.—August 13, at Riddings House, near Alfreton, Margaret Eliza, wife of Dr. Lyon Playfair, and daughter of the late James Oakes, Esq., aged thirty-four.

THORP.—July 22, at Balaklava, Sergeant-Major Thorp, of the 4th Light Dragoons, son of J. M. Thorp, of Tottenham Hale, Middlesex, aged thirty-five.

ZELUETA.—August 11, at 21, Devonshire-place, his Excellency Don Pedro Juan de Zelusta, Count de Torre Diaz, aged seventy-two.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, August 17, 1855.

CONSOLS are quiet. There was a temporary weakness this morning, on account of some rumours of an unsuccessful assault. Turkish Six per Cents. are very strong at 94. The new loan of five millions of Turkish is already inquired after, and commands a premium of 3*l.* per cent. Other stocks are tolerably firm. In the share market there is a continual depression in the heavy share market. Great Westerns are very weak. Foreign lines, having no such heavy drawbacks as our home undertakings, are all at a premium. Great Western of Canada traffic returns are so encouraging that seven and eight per cent dividend is talked of. Money is not quite so easy as last week. The harvest prospects, however, are so good, and the increase of bullion from Australia so likely to be vastly increased, that we may see Consols at 92 before the account.

Four o'clock.—Consols close at 94½; Turkish, 94½; Russian, 102, 103; Peruvian, 82, 83½.

Caledonians, 63½, 64; Chester and Holyhead, 12, 14; Eastern Counties, 11½, 11; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 54, 56; Great Northern, 88, 90; Ditto, A stock, 68, 70; Ditto, B stock, 127, 129; Great Southern and Western of Ireland, 104, 106; Great Western, 55½, 56; Lancaster and Carlisle, 70, 75; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 88, 84; London and North-Western, 96½, 97; London and Brighton, 98, 100; London and South Western, 85, 86; Midland, 71½, 71; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 25½, 26; Berwick, 73, 74; York, 45, 49; South Eastern, 62, 63; Oxford and Worcester, 25, 27; North Stafford, 7, 4½; ditto, South Devon, 134, 144; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 9, 10½; Bombay and Baroda, 14, 2 pm.; Eastern of France, 39½, 39; East Indian Five per Cent., Guaranteed, 24½, 24; Ditto, Extension, 3, 3½; Grand Trunk of Canada, 6, 5 dis.; Great Central of France, 4½, 5½ pm.; Great Western of Canada, 24, 24½; Great Luxembourg, 3½, 4; Madras, 10½, 20; Paris and Lyons, 44, 46½; Paris and Orleans, 49, 50; Rouen and Havre, 27, 29; Paris and Bouen, 26, 28; Sambre and Meuse, 94, 95; Great Western of France, 124, 124½ pm.; Agua Fria, 4½, 4; Imperial Brazil, 24, 3; Cocas, 3½, 4; St. John del Rey, 27, 29; Clarendon Copper, 14½ pm.; Cobre, 59, 61; Linars, 84, 81; Liberty, 1, 1; Santiago de Cuba, 4½, 5; South Australian, 4, 4; United Mexican, 31, 31; Waller, 1, 1; Australasian Bank, 94, 95; London Chartered of Australia, 101, 10; City Bank, 9, 11 pm.; London Bank, 4½, 5½; Union of Australia, 73, 74; Oriental Corporation, 42, 43; Australasian Agricultural, 29½, 30; Canada Land, 130, 135; Canada Government, 6 per Cent. Loan, 114, 112; Crystal Palace, 21, 21; North British Australasian, 1, 1; Oriental Gas, 14, 14; Peel Rivers, 21, 21; Scottish Australian Investment, 11, 11; South Australian Land, 39½, 37½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, August 17, 1855.

THERE has been but a moderate arrival of foreign Wheat during the week and very little English. The weather continues favourable for the harvest, but the attendance is small, and the demand is confined entirely to the supply of immediate wants. Influenced, however, by the general belief that the present crop is far short of last year, by the failure of the Rye and Potato crops in the North of Europe, and by the probability of a demand for the Continent, holders do not press sales, and the very trifling amount of business doing is at Monday's rates. The supply of Barley is fully equal to the demand, and with a slow trade there is no alteration in prices to report. There is again a considerable arrival of Oats, and for such as are out of condition prices are most irregular. The trade in floating cargoes during the week has been small. A cargo of Roman Wheat has been sold at 73s.; one of Galatz, at 67s.; one of mixed Egyptian, 41s. 6d., to the Continent; and one of the same at 39s. to the United Kingdom, all cost, freight, and insurance. The demand for Maize has been very limited. A cargo of Ordon, arrived in good condition, has been sold at 38s. 6d.; and one of Galatz, on passage, at 39s.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

| | Sat. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thur. | Frid. |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bank Stock..... | 214 | 214½ | 215½ | 214½ | ..... | ..... |
| 3 per Cent. Red. | 91½ | 91½ | 91½ | 91½ | 91½ | 91½ |
| 3 per Cent. Con. An. .. | 91 | 91½ | 90½ | 91 | 91 | 90½ |
| Consols for Account .. | 91½ | 91½ | 91½ | 91½ | 91½ | 91 |
| 3½ per Cent. An. .... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| New 2½ per Cents. .... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Long Ans. 1860. | 4 1-16 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 |
| India Stock..... | 231½ | 231 | 231 | 231 | 231 | 231 |
| Ditto Bonds, £1000 .. | 31 | 31 | 31 | 30 | 26 | ..... |
| Ditto, under £1000 .. | 31 | 31 | 31 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Ex. Bills, £1000..... | 21 | 21 | 21 | 18 | 18 | 19½ |
| Ditto, £500..... | 22 | ..... | ..... | 19 | ..... | 17 |
| Ditto, Small..... | 22 | 22 | ..... | 20 | ..... | 17 |

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.)

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| Brazilian Bonds..... | 102½ | Russian Bonds, 5 per | ..... |
| Buenos Ayres 6 per Cnts. 54½ | | Cents, 1822..... | 100½ |
| Chilian 6 per Cents..... | 105 | Russian 4½ per Cents..... | ..... |
| Danish 5 per Cents..... | 41 | Spanish 3 p. Ct. Nw Def. 19 | |
| Ecuador Bonds..... | 21½ | Spanish Committee Crt. | ..... |
| Mexican 5 per Cents..... | 21½ | of Coup. not fun. | 41 |
| Mexican 5 per Ct. for | ..... | Venezuela 4½ per Cents. 31½ | |
| Portuguese 4 per Cents..... | 41 | Belgian 4½ per Cents..... | ..... |
| Portuguese 3 p. Cents. .... | ..... | Dutch 2½ per Cents..... | 65 |
| | | Dutch 4 per Cent Certif. 90½ | |

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.—WINTER SEASON, 1855.

THE GREAT WIZARD OF THE NORTH begins most respectfully to announce that this favourite place of amusement will OPEN on MONDAY, September 3, under new auspices, and with a series of Extraordinary Performances. As everything the Wizard lays his hand on necessarily undergoes some startling change, the Lyceum Theatre will, by a wave of his Magic Wand, be instantly transformed into the Wizard's Paycomantheum; while the class of Entertainments presented within its walls will be as unlike anything that has been seen before as it is possible to conceive. Preparations have been in progress for many months past to produce these Entertainments on a scale of magnitude and excellence worthy of the Wizard's fame and popularity. His assistant spirits have been ordered to spare no expense in the compounding of their spells; and the result, it is hoped, will be an Entertainment which, for "startling effects," will far outstrip the wildest French melodrama; with "rapid changes" more surprising than an actor's playing twenty parts in twenty different dresses; with "tricks more wonderful than those of an audacious tradesman; and "transformations" which would make the alchemists of old expire with envy.

PROFESSOR ANDERSON (the Great Wizard of the North) having completed the entire circuit of the globe, and visited almost every part of Europe, America, India, and Australia, attended everywhere with a degree of success unexampled, he believes, in the career of any individual aspiring to the title of a cosmopolitan artist, will give his extraordinary **DELAISSEMENTS MAGIQUES** in the above Theatre for a limited period, preparatory to his final retirement from public life. No exertion will be spared on his part to secure the continuance of the public favour which he has hitherto enjoyed wherever he has presented himself. On the Continent, from St. Petersburg to Madrid; in America, from Canada to Mexico, and from New York to San Francisco; everywhere, in short, have the Wizard's marvels succeeded most effectually in "astonishing the natives" of the various countries visited. His performances have been patronised by audiences amounting in the aggregate to very many millions; and he is the only British Professor of his art who, in addition to having been honoured by all the Courts of Europe, has also been commanded to perform before her Majesty the QUEEN.

Without attempting to exalt the Professor's art beyond its due deserts, let it suffice to say it is his art. He has devoted himself for years to the perfecting it, and rendering it more fitted to amuse and entertain the public. That he has been successful in his efforts he thinks, from what he has said, is pretty certain; indeed a lifetime spent in diligent pursuit of excellence in any art, whatever it may be, can scarcely fail in producing some degree of efficiency. It is the result of this long study that will be presented at the Lyceum Theatre. Feats in Modern Magic hitherto unattempted will be exhibited by the aid of apparatus, out-rivaling any that have been previously constructed.

Another feature in Professor Anderson's *Delaissements Magiques* will be a complete disclosure of some of the principal impostures of the age, with illustrations of the mechanism, mystery, and mischief of Spirit-rapping, Table-turning, Clairvoyance, and other delusions, to be classed generally under the now popular head of the "soft" theory. In the Wizard's performances there will be found mirth, for those who seek merriment; mystery, for those who fancy the mysterious; paradoxes, for the lovers of the paradoxical; wonders, for those who like the wonderful; startling surprises, for those eager for excitement. There will be science for the sage, wisdom for the philosopher, art for the artistic, and cheerfulness for all. It will be the Professor's object, in fact, to produce a play each night in which the audience themselves shall be the actors, and which, whatever the plot may be, shall certainly be free from the fault of many modern dramas,—the fault of lacking incident or exciting situations and unexpected *dénouements*.

Such will be the general character of the Wizard's Banquet of Wonders. It will be an ordinary to which he will welcome all. The bill of fare will shortly be published in the programme now preparing; and Professor Anderson, the carver of the feast, will spare no effort to please the taste of every guest who may honour his table with his presence—cutting it fat or lean as each may wish.

The Royal Lyceum Theatre will be opened by the Wizard of the North, as his Paycomantheum, on MONDAY, September the 3rd.

DR. KAHN'S GRAND ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, consisting of upwards of 1000 highly-interesting Models representing every part of the Human Frame in Health and Disease, also the various Races of Men, &c., open (for Gentlemen only) daily from 10 till 10. Lectures, varying every day in the week, are delivered by Dr. SEXTON, at 12, 2, 4, and half-past 4, on MONDAY, 12.—4, COVENTRY-STREET, LEICESTER-SQUARE.

A CLEAR COMPLEXION.

GODFREY'S EXTRACT OF ELDER FLOWERS is strongly recommended for softening, improving, beautifying, and preserving the skin, and giving it a blooming and charming appearance, being at once most fragrant perfume and delightful cosmetic. It will completely remove tan, sunburn, redness, &c., and by its balsamic and healing qualities render the skin soft, pliable, and free from dryness, scurf, &c., clear it from every humour, pimple, or eruption; and, by continuing its use only a short time, the skin will become and continue soft and smooth, and the complexion perfectly clear and beautiful. In the process of shaving it is invaluable, as it annihilates every pimple, and all roughness, and will afford great comfort if applied to the face during the prevalence of cold easterly winds.

Sold in Bottles, price 2s. 9d., with Directions for using it, by all Medicine Vendors and Perfumers.

20,000 NERVOUS MIND AND HEAD

SUFFERERS from Noblemen to Mechanics, having tried all advertised and other remedies without a cure, have, during eighteen years, been obliged to apply to the Rev. Dr. Willis Mosely, 18, Bloomsbury-street, Bedford-square, London, and 50 are not known to be uncured. Means of cure only to be paid for, and a relapse prevented for life. Royal Observations, a pamphlet on nervousness, framed to any address if one stamp is sent; or, for 36, Twelve Chapters on the Only Means of Curing Nervous or Mind Complaints; "the best book on nervousness in our language."

FITCH & SON'S

CELEBRATED BREAKFAST BACON, AND FIRST-CLASS PROVISIONS.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENTS' LETTERS. CONTINUED.

"We were much pleased with the quality of No. 9 case. The bacon, &c., we found first-rate."—Melbourne, South Australia.

"I beg to enclose you a Post-office order for 1l. 5s. 6d. for bacon: the quality is very excellent, and quite to my taste."

"I like the cheese much, and I have no doubt the bacon will prove as good as in former times."

"The bacon you sent me is excellent; I shall recommend it to friends."

"I never tasted such bacon in my life; it was delicious."

"The Rev. ——— beg to enclose Fitch and Son 1l. 1s. 10d. for bacon received this morning, and found very nice indeed."

"I am obliged by your attention to the small order, and for the excellent article supplied. Enclosed are postage stamps for the amount."

Fitch and Son will be gratified by showing the originals of the above, and a multitude of others of the like import, upon application.

This celebrated Bacon is sold by the side and half-side at 10d. per lb.: the middle piece of 12lbs. at 10d. per lb.; and other separate pieces.

Bacon, hams, tongues, German sausages, cheese, butter, &c., securely packed for travelling, and delivered free of charge, at all the London Terminals.

List of prices free. See also daily papers. Post-office Orders to be made payable at St. Martin's-le-Grand. Prepayment is requested where a reference is not sent with the order for goods.

FITCH AND SON,

Provision Merchants and Importers,

No. 66, BISHOPSGATE WITHIN, LONDON.

Established 1754.

ADNAM'S Improved Patent Groats and Barley.

THE ONLY EXISTING PATENT.

And Strongly recommended by the Medical Profession.

TO INVALIDS, MOTHERS, AND FAMILIES.—The important object so desirable to be obtained has at length been secured to the Public by J. and J. C. ADNAM, PATENTERS who, after much time and attention, have succeeded by their *Improved Process* in producing preparations of the purest and finest quality ever manufactured from the Oat and Barley.

The Barley being prepared by a similar process is as pure as can be manufactured, and will be found to produce a light and nourishing Food for Infants and the Aged.

A report having been circulated that preparations of so white a character could not be produced from Groats and Barley alone, the Patentees have had recourse to the highest authority for an analysis to establish the fact, a copy of which is subjoined:—

Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital.

February 19, 1855.

I have submitted to a microscopical and chemical examination the samples of Barley-meal and Groats which you have forwarded to me, and I beg to inform you that I find in them only those principles which are found in good Barley. There is no mineral or other impurity present; and, from the result of my investigation, I believe them to be genuine, and to possess those nutritive properties assigned by the late Dr. Pereira to this description of food.

(Signed) A. S. TAYLOR.

"Messrs. J. and J. C. ADNAM and Co."

CAUTION.—To prevent errors, the Public are requested to observe that each Package bears the Signature of the PATENTERS, J. and J. C. ADNAM.

To be obtained Wholesale at the Manufactory, Maiden-lane, Queen-street, London; and Retail in Packets and Cansisters at 6d. and 1s. each, and in Cansisters for Families at 2s., 5s., and 10s. each, of all respectable Grocers, Druggists, &c., in Town and Country.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS

is allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep. A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, being sent to the Manufacturer, Mr. JOHN WHITE, 325, Piccadilly, London.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE CAPS, &c., for VARI-COSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 16s. Postage, 6d.

DEAFNESS AND NOISES IN THE HEAD.

Free of Charge, for the Protection and Instant Relief of the Deaf, a Book of 30 pages.—An extraordinary discovery.—Just published, sent free by post to any deaf person writing for it, "A STOP TO EMPIRICISM and Exorbitant Fees." Sufferers extremely deaf, by means of this Book, permanently cure themselves, in any distant part of the world, without pain or use of any instrument. Thousands have been restored to perfect hearing, and for ever rescued from the snares of the numerous advertising, dangerous, unqualified pretenders of the present day. It contains lists of qualified cures, published by Dr. F. R. HOGHTON, Member of the London Royal College of Surgeons, May 2, 1845; L.A.C. April 30, 1846; Consulting Surgeon to the Institution for the Cure of Deafness, 9, Suffolk-place, Pall Mall, London, where all letters are to be addressed.—Personal consultations every day between 11 and 4 o'clock.—Sufferers deaf 40 or 50 years have their hearing perfectly restored in half an hour without a moment's inconvenience. Testimonials and certificates can be seen from all the leading members of the Faculty, and from Patients cured.

SISAL CIGARS.

H. N. GOODRICH, after 25 years' practical acquaintance with the business, will state his reputation for ability and honour as a Cigar Merchant, upon the truth or falsehood of the assertion, that no Cigars are good as his Sisal Cigars have ever been sold so cheap. Best quality 14, of the finest quality, for 1s. 9d. Post free, six stamps extra. None so genuine unless signed, "H. N. Goodrich." 416, Oxford-street, London, nearly opposite Hanway-street.

ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE, in Casks or Bottles.—HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO., are still Delivering the MARCH BREWINGS in Casks of 12 Gallons, and upwards. Also in Bottles, imperial measure.

Address.—HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO., Wine and Beer Merchants, 54, Pall-mall.

212 MILNERS' HOLDFAST AND

FIRE-RESISTING SAFES (non-conducting and vapourising), with all the improvements, under their Quadruple Patents of 1840-51-54 and 1855, including their Gunpowder-proof Solid Lock and Door (without which no Safe is secure).

THE STRONGEST, BEST, AND CHEAPEST SAFES IN EXTANT.

MILNERS' PHENIX (212 degrees) SAFE WORKS, LIVERPOOL, the most complete and extensive in the world. Show-rooms, 6 and 8, Lord-street, Liverpool, London Depot, 47A, Moorgate-street, City. Circulars free by post.

ONE THOUSAND BEDSTEADS TO

CHOOSE FROM.—HEAL AND SON have just erected extensive Premises, which enable them to keep upwards of One Thousand Bedsteads in stock, One Hundred and Fifty of which are fixed for inspection, comprising every variety of Brass, Wood, and Iron, with Chintz and Damask Furnitures, complete. Their new warehouses also contain an assortment of BEDROOM FURNITURE, which comprises every requisite, from the plainest Japanese Deal for Servants' Rooms, to the newest and most tasteful designs in Mahogany and other Woods. The whole warranted of the soundest and best manufacture. HEAL AND SON'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF BEDSTEADS, AND PRICED LIST OF BEDDING, sent free by Post.—HEAL AND SON, 196, Tottenham-court-road.

DR. DE JONGH'S

LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL.

Prescribed with complete confidence by the Faculty for its purity, and superior, immediate, and regular efficacy.

It is entirely free from nauseous flavour, and being invariably and carefully submitted to chemical analysis—AND ONLY SUPPLIED IN SEALED BOTTLES TO PRECLUDE SUBSEQUENT ADMIXTURE OR ADULTERATION—this Oil possesses a guarantee of genuineness and purity offered by no other Oil in the market.

TESTIMONIAL from ARTHUR H. HASSALL, M.D., F.R.S., M.R.C.P., Chief Analyst of the Sanitary Commission of the *Lancet*, Author of "Food and its Adulterations," &c., &c., &c.

"I have more than once, at different times, subjected your Light Brown Oil to chemical analysis, and this exposure to yourself—and I have always found it to be free from all impurity and rich in the constituents of life. So great is my confidence in the article, that I usually prescribe it in preference to any other, in order to make sure of obtaining the remedy in its purest and best condition."

Sold ONLY in bottles, capsuled and labelled with Dr. de Jongh's signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by ANSAE, HARFORD, and CO., 77, STRAND, London, Dr. de Jongh's sole Consignees; and by most respectable Chemists in town and country.

Half-pints (10 ounces), 2s. 6d.; Pints (20 ounces), 4s. 6d.; Quarts (40 ounces), 9s. IMPERIAL MEASURE.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS, INFALLIBLE

FOR THE CURE OF INDIGESTION AND DISORDERED STOMACHS.—Mr. Charles Welch, of Castlewellan, states, in a letter to Professor Holloway, that a person with whom he is acquainted suffered from Indigestion and Liver Complaint. Some of the most eminent medical men in the neighbourhood had tried their skill upon him without any good effect, and for some time he was in the County Infirmary, where he was pronounced incurable. However, notwithstanding all this, Holloway's Pills have been the sole means of perfectly curing him.

Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the World; at PROFESSOR HOLLOWAY'S establishments, 244, Strand, London, and 80, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stamp, Constantinople; A. Guidry, Smyrna; and H. Hook, Malta.

TRIEMER.—PROTECTED BY ROYAL

LETTERS PATENT OF ENGLAND, and secured by the SEALS of the ECOLE DE PHARMACIE DE PARIS, and the IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, VIENNA.

TRIEMER, No. 1, is a Remedy for Relaxation, Spasmodic, and Exhaustion of the System.

TRIEMER, No. 2, effectually, in the short space of Three Days, completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders which Capsules have so long been thought an antidote for, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population.

TRIEMER, No. 3, is the Great Continental Remedy for that class of disorders which, unfortunately, the English physician treats with Mercury, to the inevitable destruction of the Patient's constitution, and which all the Sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove.

TRIEMER, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are alike devoid of taste or smell, and of all nauseating qualities. They may be on the toilet-table without their use being suspected.

Sold in tin cases, at 11s. each; free by post, 5s. extra, divided into separate doses, as administered by Welpman, Lallemand, Roux, &c., &c. To be had wholesale and retail in London, of Robert Johnson, 65, Cornhill; Haughey and Co., 63, Oxford-street; Sanger, 150, Oxford-street; Priestley, Ingham, Druggist, Market-street, Manchester; Priestley, Chemist, Lord-street, Liverpool; Winnall, Bookseller, High-street, Birmingham; and Powell, Bookseller, 15, Westminster-lane, Dublin.

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE (MUTUAL) LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Incorporated by Special Act of Parliament.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this SOCIETY was held at Edinburgh, on Tuesday, May 1, 1855. The Report, by the Directors, among other information, contained the following particulars:—

During the year closed on 1st March last—
 625 Policies have been issued.
 The Sums Assured thereby amount to 284,670l.;
 And the Annual Premiums thereon to 9041l.

The position of the Society at 1st March was as follows:—

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Existing Assurances | £4,392,733 |
| Annual Revenue | 163,304 |
| Accumulated Fund | 910,845 |

This Corporation has been in existence TWENTY-FOUR years. It proceeds on the principle of Mutual Contribution, the Surplus or Profit being wholly divisible among the Members.

The total additions to Policies made at and preceding March 1, 1855, amounted to
 SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE POUNDS.

The amount paid to the Representatives of Deceased Members is upwards of
 SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS.

Copies of the Report, and all other information, may be had on application at the Head Office, or Agencies.

Agent in London—W. COOK, 126, Bishopsgate-street Within.

VIEW OF THE PROGRESS AND POSITION OF THE SOCIETY.

| | Amount Assured. | Annual Revenue. | Accumulated Fund. |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| At 1st March, 1855 | £4,392,733 | £163,304 | £910,845 |
| Do. 1854 | 1,707,716 | 64,000 | 227,785 |
| Do. 1853 | 3,067,376 | 114,106 | 490,555 |
| Do. 1852 | 4,392,733 | 163,304 | 910,845 |

ROBERT CHRISTIE, Manager.
 WILLIAM FINLAY, Secretary.

Head Office, 26, ST. ANDREW-SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

BANK OF DEPOSIT.

No. 3, PAUL MALL EAST, LONDON.
 Established A.D. 1844.

PARTIES desirous of INVESTING MONEY are requested to examine the Plan of this Institution, by which a high rate of Interest may be obtained with perfect security.

The Interest is payable in JANUARY and JULY, at the Head Office in London; and may also be received at the various Branches, or through Country Bankers, without delay or expense.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.
 Prospectuses and Forms for opening Accounts sent free on application.

ARGUS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

30, Throgmorton-street, Bank.

Chairman—THOMAS FARNCOMB, Esq., Alderman.
 Deputy-Chairman—WILLIAM LEAF, Esq.

Richard E. Arden, Esq.
 Edward Bates, Esq.
 Thomas Camplin, Esq.
 James Clift, Esq.
 John Humphrey, Esq., Ald.

Physician—Dr. Jeaffreson, 2, Finsbury-square.
 Surgeon—W. Coulson, Esq., 2, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry.
 Consulting Actuary—Professor Hall, M.A., of King's College.

ADVANTAGES OF ASSURING WITH THIS COMPANY.

The Premiums are on the lowest scale consistent with security.

The assured are protected by an ample subscribed capital—An Assurance Fund of nearly 400,000l., invested on mortgage and in the Government Stocks—and an income of 90,000l. a year.

| Premiums to Assure £100. | Whole Term. |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Age. (One Year: Seven Years. | With Profits Without Profits |
| 20 20 17 8 | £10 19 9 £1 15 10 |
| 30 1 1 8 | 2 5 5 2 0 7 |
| 40 1 3 0 | 3 0 7 2 14 10 |
| 50 1 14 1 | 4 6 8 4 0 11 |
| 60 2 2 4 | 6 12 9 6 0 10 |

MUTUAL BRANCH.

Assurers on the Bonus system are entitled at the end of five years, and afterwards annually, to participate in four-fifths or 80 per cent. of the profits. The profit assigned to each policy can be added to the sum assured, applied in reduction of the annual premium, or be received in cash.

At the first division a return of 20 per cent. in cash on the premium paid was declared; this will allow a re-embolvement increase varying according to age from 66 to 28 per cent. on the premiums, or from 5 to 15 per cent. on the sum assured.

One-half of the "Whole Term" Premium may remain on credit for seven years, or one-third of the Premium may remain for life as a debt upon the Policy at 5 per cent., or may be paid off at any time without notice.

Claims paid in any month after proofs have been approved.

Loans upon approved security.

No charge for Policy stamps.

Medical attendants paid for their reports.

Persons may, in time of peace, proceed to or reside in any part of Europe or British North America without extra charges.

The medical officers attend every day at a quarter before two o'clock.

E. BATES, Resident Director.

UNITED MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, 54, Charing-cross, London.

Policies indisputable.
 No charge for Policy Stamps.
 Whole profits divided annually.
 Assurances on the strictly mutual principle.
 Invalid lives assured at equitable rates.
 THOMAS PRITCHARD, Resident Director.

E A G L E

INSURANCE COMPANY.

Established 1807; Empowered by Act of Parliament, 53 Geo. III., and regulated by deed Enrolled in the High Court of Chancery.

3, Crescent, New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, London.

DIRECTORS.

JOSHUA LOCKWOOD, Esq., Chairman.
 WILLIAM WYBROW, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.
 Charles Bischoff, Esq.
 Thomas Boddington, Esq.
 Thomas Devas, Esq.
 Nathaniel Gould, Esq.
 Robert A. Gray, Esq.
 Auditors—THOMAS ALLEN, Esq.; WILLIAM H. SMITH, Jun., Esq.

Medical Officers—JAMES SALTER, Esq., M.D., Tottenham Green; Wm. COOKE, Esq., M.D., 39, Trinity Square, Tower Hill.

Actuary and Secretary—CHARLES JELlicoe, Esq.

The Assets of this Company Exceed Three Quarters of a Million Sterling.

THE ANNUAL INCOME EXCEEDS—One Hundred and Thirty Five Thousand Pounds.

THE NUMBER OF EXISTING POLICIES IS—Upwards of Four Thousand.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT ASSURED—Exceeds Two Million Eight Hundred Thousand Pounds.

AT THE DIVISION OF SURPLUS IN 1852,—About One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds was added to the Sums Assured, under Participating Policies.

The Division is Quinquennial, AND THE WHOLE SURPLUS (LESS 20 PER CENT. ONLY) IS DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE ASSURED.

The Premiums required by this Company, although moderate, entitle the Assured to 80 per cent. of the quinquennial surplus.

The lives assured are permitted, in time of peace, without extra charge, to reside in any country—(Australia and California excepted)—north of 33 degrees north latitude, or south of 33 degrees south latitude; or to pass by sea (not being seafaring persons by profession) between any places lying in the same hemisphere—distant more than 33 degrees from the Equator, without extra charge.

Deeds assigning Policies are registered at the Office, and assignments can be effected on forms supplied by the Company.

The Annual Reports of the Company's state and progress, Prospectuses and Forms, may be had, or will be sent, post free on application at the Office, or to any of the Company's Agents.

ST. GEORGE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

118, PAUL-MALL, LONDON.

Capital, 100,000l., in Shares of 5l. each. Deposit, 1l. per Share.

(On which Interest, at the rate of 5l. per cent. per annum, exclusive of Dividend, is guaranteed by the Deed of Settlement.)

Chairman—Viscount BANLEIGH, Park-place, St. James's.
 Deputy-Chairman—HENRY POWNALL, Esq., Ladbroke-square, Notting-hill.

Secretary—W. C. URQUHART, Esq.

POLICIES ABSOLUTELY INDISPUTABLE.

Annuities and Endowments for families, children, and others on the most favourable terms.

Premiums payable yearly, half-yearly, or quarterly.

No charge for medical fees or stamps.

Loans granted for long or short periods, payable by monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly instalments.

Defective Titles, Reversions, &c., assured and guaranteed.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

16, 221l. 5s. have already been paid as compensation for Fatal and other Railway Accidents, by the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.

EXAMPLES.

1000l. was paid to the Widow of J. G., killed on the 24th February, 1853, secured by a payment of 1l.

350l. was paid to H. C. H. J., who had his leg broken on the 31st Aug., 1853, secured by a payment of 1l.

300l. was paid to W. P., severely injured on the 19th September, 1854, secured by a payment of 14l.

For the convenience of frequent travellers, Periodical Insurances are granted, which now cover the risk of Fatal Accidents while travelling in any class carriage on any Railway in the United Kingdom or on the Continent of Europe, and insure Compensation for Personal Injury in any Railway Accident in the United Kingdom only.

To Insure 1000l. at an Annual Premium of 20s.

Ditto 200l. ditto 5s.

Insurances can also be effected securing the same advantages for terms of five or ten years, or for the whole of life, at greatly reduced rates, which may be learned from the Company's Prospectus, to be had at the Offices, and at all the principal Railway Stations.

A new class of insurance has also been established in case of Death by Railway Accident alone, without compensation for Injury.

To Insure 1000l. at an Annual Premium of..... 5s.

Ditto any sum not exceeding 1000l. for the whole of life by a single payment of 6s. per cent.: thus one payment of 3l. will secure 1000l.

The Premiums charged include the Stamp Duty, this being the only Company insuring against Railway Accidents empowered by Special Act of Parliament to pay a commuted Stamp Duty.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

Railway Passengers' Assurance Office, 3, Old Broad-street, London.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING COMPANY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1847.

The Court of Directors grant **LETTERS OF CREDIT** and **BILLS** upon the Company's Bank at ADELAIDE at PAR. Approved drafts negotiated and sent for collection. Business with the Australian colonies generally conducted through the Bank's Agents.

Apply at the Company's Offices, 54, Old Broad-street, London.

WILLIAM PURDY, Manager.

London, August, 1855.

GENERAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE COMPANY, Cannon-street West.—Capital, 500,000l., in Shares of 5l. each; call, 10s. per Share.

Every description of insurance business transacted at this office. Policies absolutely indisputable. Guarantees afforded to persons in situations of trust where security is required; also against losses arising from robbery, forgery, &c. Fire and life insurances effected on improved and safe principles.—Plate-glass insured.

Prospectuses, terms of agency, proposals, &c., can be had on application.

H. C. EIFFE, F.R.C.S., Actuary.

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